

2024

CBCA - P1

NOVEL Insight

CBCA Notables 2024

PART 1 - Reviews for the Early Childhood Notables List

HOW TO USE THIS E-MAG

This e-magazine is interactive.

You can navigate around the magazine by clicking on the headings in the CONTENTS list above, or by clicking on the book titles in the INDEX on the last page.

To return to the Contents page, just click on the NOVEL INSIGHT LOGO at the top of the page.

BOOK IN A SERIES



This symbol indicates this title belongs to a series. Reviews for the other titles in this series can be found in the review database.

We aim to review as many books as possible. Books that are a part of a series are each reviewed and collated in the review database as they are released. If you see this symbol that means members can find the reviews for the earlier titles in a series in the reviews database.

LITERARY / GOOD READ RATING

The literary value rating measures the quality of a book out of 5. For example, how well written.

The good read rating measures how enjoyable a book is out of 5. Our reviewers choose this rating from the viewpoint of the target audience, rather than as an adult.

CONTENT INSIGHT

This section focuses on any violence or sexual references within the book. Any references to witchcraft, magic, pirates or the supernatural are also likely to be included in this box. Where possible we try to give examples from the book.

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LANGUAGE RATING

This rating measures the extent of offensive language that appears in the book. Our team makes this decision based on the content and the reading age of the book. We will often list specific words that are used and how many times they appear. At times low will be listed without specifics. This might mean they say the character cursed (without actually swearing) or there are implied swearing words for example from a fantasy foreign world.



BOOK DESCRIPTION

This is the publisher's description either as described by their website or marketing or the blurb of the book.

AUTHOR LOCATION

These markers indicate where the author resides.



REPRESENTATIONS

We aim to list a range of diverse representations for your review. This is where you will find out what aspects of diversity are represented or featured in the book.

For example:

- Religions
- Gender, sexual diversity and LGBTQIA+
- Cultural representations
- Third world versus Western society or different socioeconomic situations
- Disabilities or difference
- Family structures (i.e. traditional family, single parents, intergenerational friendships)
- Neurodiversity

ACCESSIBILITY

This heading indicates when a book has been specifically designed for kids who struggle with reading. This comes in the following forms:

High-Low Read: High-Low books are designed to be accessible and engaging for older readers who have a lower reading ability. To do this, the content is still interesting and age-appropriate for older readers but the vocabulary, layout, and design are easier to consume.

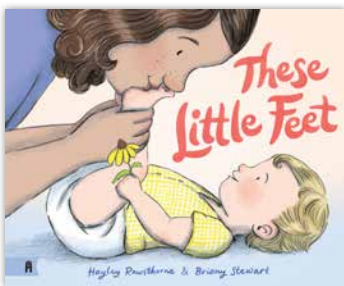
Dyslexia Friendly: The book is likely to have yellower pages, serif fonts, and more white space.

Reluctant Reader: A book designed for a reluctant reader is a book that is specifically created to engage and encourage individuals who may be hesitant or unenthusiastic about reading. It is a rapid read for kids who don't enjoy reading or have reading difficulties (and might have more visuals).

Low Page Density: This book is likely to have more white space and fewer words per page, readers may find it easier to comprehend and retain information.

EARLY CHILDHOOD

THESE LITTLE FEET



AUTHOR:

Hayley Rawsthorne

ILLUSTRATOR:

Briony Stewart

ISBN: 9781761069017

PUBLISHER: Albert Street Books

RELEASE DATE: 3 Oct 2023

READING AGE: 0 to 3 years

THEMES: family, babies, dreams, little, growing, adventure, activities, play, wonder, imagination, growing up

BOOK DESCRIPTION

These little feet, so tiny and new.

The places they'll go, the dances they'll do.

The mountains they'll climb, the dreams they'll pursue.

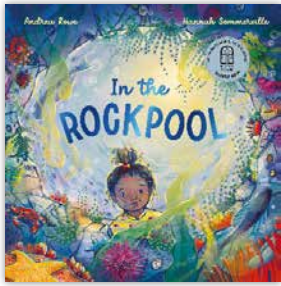
These little feet, so tiny and new.

A delightful celebration of love, hope and promise, this beautiful picture book perfectly captures the precious dreams of childhood and parenting.

NOVEL INSIGHT REVIEW

Babies have little feet. But as they grow, they will go on all sorts of adventures. They learn new skills, play games, and pursue dreams with their family by their side. A sweet and lyrical story with beautiful illustrations of family life. The final illustration depicts families of all types with their babies.

IN THE ROCKPOOL



AUTHOR: Andrea Rowe 📍AU

ILLUSTRATOR:

Hannah Sommerville 📍AU

ISBN: 9781761213014

PUBLISHER: Little Hare

RELEASE DATE: 29 Nov 2023

READING AGE: 2 to 5 years

THEMES: rockpools, marine ecosystems, sea urchins, nature, biology, discovery, ocean, counting, nature, playtime, exploring, toddlers

REPRESENTATIONS: The main character has dark skin. The group of toddlers are of diverse races and ethnicities.

ACCESSIBILITY: This edition has thicker board pages suitable for toddlers.

BOOK DESCRIPTION

One little rockpool.
Two little eyes.
Three little urchins, bobbing with the tide.

Little people love to explore little worlds! Dive into the rockpool with this glittering and gorgeous board book for our smallest nature-lovers, from the CBCA award-winning creators of *Jetty Jumping*, Andrea Rowe and Hannah Sommerville.

A 2024 CBCA Early Childhood Book of the Year: Notable Book

A Bookstagram Best Board Book of 2023!

NOVEL INSIGHT REVIEW

In this aquatic-themed story, a group of toddlers explore a rockpool at the beach and count the creatures they see. Counting up to ten, some of the creatures they spot are urchins, moon snails, clams, crabs, dragons, octopuses, and sea stars.

Using gentle rhyme, this picture book has evocative illustrations that cleverly show different perspectives: sea creatures below the water, creatures below and above, and curious toddlers above looking below.

ONE LITTLE DUCK



AUTHOR: Katrina Germein

ILLUSTRATOR: Danny Snell

ISBN: 9781460761649

PUBLISHER:

HarperCollins Publishers

RELEASE DATE: 5 Jul 2023

READING AGE: 2 to 5 years

THEMES: We're Going on a Bear Hunt, I Went Walking, adventure, friendship, animals, farm animals, friendship, counting, ducks, sharing meal, adventure, playtime, home, meal, cooking, nursery rhyme, CBCA 2024

BOOK DESCRIPTION

The classic 'Five Little Ducks' meets *We're Going on a Bear Hunt* and *I Went Walking* in an irresistibly fresh, cute and clever picture book that pre-schoolers will love.

One little duck went out one day,
over the hills and far away.

Mother Duck said ...

'Moo Moo Moo Moo,'

and Cow said, 'Wait! Now I'm coming too.'

Oh no, Mother Duck has forgotten how to quack!

Every day she tries a new barnyard call, and every night Little Duck returns with a new farm friend.

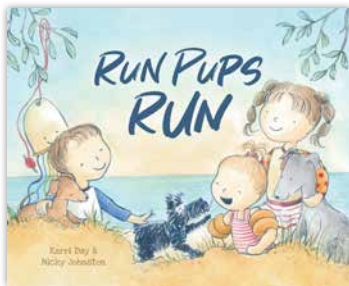
A fun twist on the song 'Five Little Ducks,' this delightful story from the award-winning duo Katrina Germein and Danny Snell is destined to become a modern classic.

NOVEL INSIGHT REVIEW

One little duck goes out one day, and when Mother Duck calls out different animal sounds, a new animal joins them for a meal. Day by day, duck, cow,

sheepdog, chicken, lamb, and piglet go on adventures to different places. They travel through fine and rainy weather until Mother Duck calls them back to eat. The meal becomes increasingly bigger with each new animal friend that joins them. One day, none of the seven animals return home, as they are camping in a tent and reading Three Little Pigs. Mother Ducks waits alone until the next morning. Then she calls out to her duckling, who comes running back. A joyful, clever new take on a well-known nursery rhyme.

RUN PUPS RUN



AUTHOR: Kerri Day
ILLUSTRATOR: Nicky Johnston
ISBN: 9781921136092
PUBLISHER: Windy Hollow Books

RELEASE DATE: 1 Oct 2023

READING AGE: 2 to 5 years

THEMES: beach, pets, family, adventure, childhood, summer, dogs, play, mischief

BOOK DESCRIPTION

When a family heads to the beach with their dogs an adventurous summer day unfolds. A lost kite, riding the waves, sandcastles, ice-cream, hiding from their parents and a thunderstorm!

A rollicking, rhyming adventure story to read aloud and share with the whole family. Run Pups Run celebrates the simple joys of childhood and the bond between children and their dogs.

Illustrator Nicky Johnson perfectly brings to life this whimsical text about a runaway day at the beach.

NOVEL INSIGHT REVIEW

As a group of dogs and children play, swim, and snack at the beach with their family, the illustrations

show the similarities between them. As the weather starts to turn, they pack up and head home, the dogs and kids falling asleep together. A sweet rhyming story about dogs and children at the beach.

THE LITTLE THINGS



AUTHOR: Penny Harrison 📍 AU
ILLUSTRATOR: Hannah Sommerville 📍 AU
ISBN: 9781761211263
PUBLISHER: Little Hare
RELEASE DATE: 4 Jan 2023

READING AGE: 2 to 5 years

THEMES: family, fun, moments, present, outdoors, environment, friendship, joy, peace, happy, hope

REPRESENTATIONS: Illustrations show diverse cultures.

BOOK DESCRIPTION

The Little Things is a reassuring reminder that there is plenty in the world to make us smile and give us hope.

On days the sunshine stays away, you wake up feeling sad and grey, you'll find the small things can delight – those little things that feel just right.

The Little Things celebrates the joy and comfort to be found in life's simple moments, whether it's spitting cherry pips or bubbly baths on rainy nights. A rhyming text that calls on our senses and travels through the seasons, The Little Things is beautifully illustrated and invites readers to find solace and delight in the small but special moments of our everyday lives.

NOVEL INSIGHT REVIEW

Even though life can sometimes seem challenging, there are plenty of things worth celebrating. From how we interact with our environment to how we interact with each other, the little things help

make the grey days more joyful. A sweet and uplifting picture book with beautiful illustrations.

WHEN I'M BIG



AUTHOR/ ILLUSTRATOR:

Karen Blair 📍 AU

ISBN: 9781761045813

PUBLISHER: Puffin AU

RELEASE DATE: 4 Apr 2023

READING AGE: 2 to 5 years

THEMES: siblings, parents, small, big, big girl, growing, changing, adjusting, excitement, joy, happiness, magic

BOOK DESCRIPTION

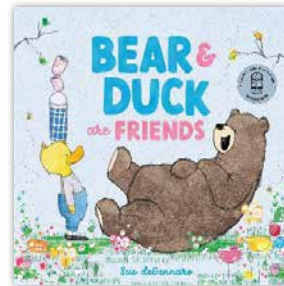
Filled with humour and imagination, When I'm Big is a delightful, warm-hearted celebration of becoming a sibling. From award-winning picture-book creator Karen Blair comes the perfect gift for every family welcoming a new baby.

Everyone keeps telling me
I'm going to be a big girl soon,
but I wonder ... Just how BIG will I be?

NOVEL INSIGHT REVIEW

Everyone tells me I will be a big girl soon. It must be magic! I will climb faster, jump further, and help more. But how big will I get? I will definitely need a bigger bed, a bigger bath, and a bigger house. What if I get too big? It might be lonely and hard to fit in. Thankfully, Mum reassures me that I will always be her little girl. But when someone littler comes along, I realise that being a big girl is magic. A heartwarming story with engaging illustrations of a little girl slowly growing bigger than her surroundings.

BEAR AND DUCK ARE FRIENDS



AUTHOR/ILLUSTRATOR:

Sue deGennaro

ISBN: 9781761210327

PUBLISHER: Little Hare

RELEASE DATE: 8 Mar 2024

READING AGE: 2 to 6 years

THEMES: friendship, compromise, relationships, confidence, trying new things, overcoming fears, ambition, CBCA 2024

BOOK DESCRIPTION

Bear and Duck are best friends, but they are very different. Duck likes to try new things, and Bear ... well, Bear likes not to.

When Duck needs a friend for her dance class, Bear reluctantly agrees. Bear's big size causes problems at first, but he soon discovers that he might just be a very good dancer.

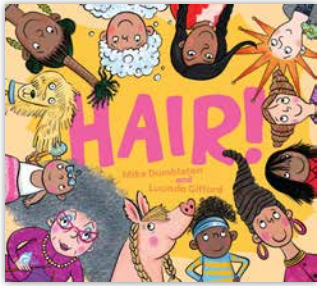
Bear and Duck is a story about friendship, confidence, and overcoming the fear of trying new things.

A 2024 CBCA Early Childhood Book of the Year: Notable Book

NOVEL INSIGHT REVIEW

Duck is adventurous and loves trying new things, but Bear is less enthusiastic. Bear appears anxious or slightly fearful. However they are great friends so when all of Duck's activities have "bring a friend" days Bear brings Duck. When Bear comes to dance class he falls over and feels like he can't do it. But Duck encourages him to relax and listen to the music and Bear starts to relax and enjoy himself. So when Duck invites Bear to his swim class Bear agrees more confidently the next time. A sweet story of friends encouraging one another.

HAIR!



AUTHOR: Mike Dumbleton

ILLUSTRATOR:

Lucinda Gifford

ISBN: 9780645401325

PUBLISHER:

Little Book Press

RELEASE DATE: 25 Oct 2022

READING AGE: 2 to 6 years

THEMES: hair, confidence, self-esteem, diversity, inclusion, celebrating difference, similarities, differences, people, animals

REPRESENTATIONS: There is a mix of characters of different ages, races and ethnicities. There is a character with hair patches, suggesting a skin/hair condition. There is a set of twins shown.

BOOK DESCRIPTION

Everyone's hair is unique and fabulous!

Hair! is a vibrant and uplifting celebration of wildly different hair - individual colours, textures, styles, lengths and shapes - all of which are cause for applause!

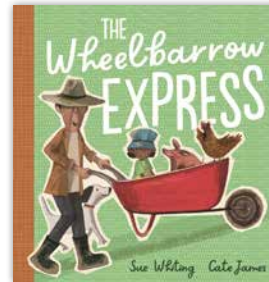
Told in rhyming text and brought to life in hilarious and surprising ways, Hair! will leave all readers - young and old - with a bursting sense of pride.

With a fun fold-out page!

NOVEL INSIGHT REVIEW

There are lots of different kinds of hair on both people and animals. It can vary in colour, texture, style and in the accessories. The illustrations feature kids, adults, a horse, a cat, a llama and dogs. There is a fold-out page in the middle that shows 'higher' hair. A fun read for younger kids with colourful illustrations.

THE WHEELBARROW EXPRESS



AUTHOR: Sue Whiting

ILLUSTRATOR: Cate James

ISBN: 9781760654627

PUBLISHER:

Walker Books Australia

RELEASE DATE: 5 Jul 2023

READING AGE: 2 to 6 years

THEMES: family, farms, wheelbarrow, fun, grandparents, farm animals

REPRESENTATIONS: Country living.

BOOK DESCRIPTION

The Wheelbarrow Express is a heartfelt and rollicking tale about the special love between a grandparent and a child.

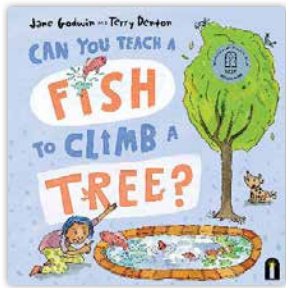
It's Tommy's last day at Pa's farm and it's time to say goodbye. Tommy doesn't want to go. Not yet. He loves the farm and its playful pigs and clucking chickens and galloping goats and the dam that is deep and blue and perfect for skimming stones. And he loves Pa.

But Pa has a plan: there's time for one last run on the Wheelbarrow Express. Toot! Toot! All aboard!

NOVEL INSIGHT REVIEW

When Tommy has to go home, back to Mum and Ruby and away from Pa, he is disappointed. But Pa takes him on a fun wheelbarrow ride through all the activities at the farm. Tommy helps Pa with the chickens, plays at the water and thinks the pigs love him. Tommy and Pa even share some jokes together. While Tommy still loves playing on the wheelbarrow express he is glad to see his Mum at the end. A colour story with the experience of the farm and being with grandparents.

CAN YOU TEACH A FISH TO CLIMB A TREE?



AUTHOR: Jane Godwin
ILLUSTRATOR: Terry Denton
ISBN: 9781760508661
PUBLISHER: Bright Light
RELEASE DATE: 1 Nov 2023
READING AGE: 3 to 6 years

THEMES: judgement, skill, positive, uplifting, encouragement, ability, enjoyment, imagination, unique, CBCA 2024

REPRESENTATIONS: Illustrations show diverse cultures.

BOOK DESCRIPTION

'Everybody is a genius.
 But if you judge a fish by its ability to climb a tree,
 it will live its whole life believing that it is stupid!
 -- Albert Einstein (or not, as it turns out!)

So ... can a fish climb a tree?
 Can a horse drive a car?
 Can a baby bake a cake?

And if they can't, what wonderful things can they do?

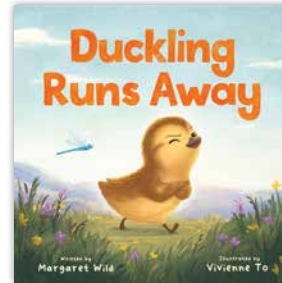
From bestselling creators Jane Godwin and Terry Denton comes a quirky and inspiring book about celebrating who YOU are and the power and peace to be found in not trying to be anyone else.

NOVEL INSIGHT REVIEW

If you judge a fish by its ability to climb a tree, it will seem useless. Just like a hippo can't walk a tightrope and a bird can't write its name. A dog can't play the violin, and a lizard can't sail. But nothing is wrong with them—they simply have different skills. Did you know a bird can fly across the world without getting lost, and lizards can camouflage? What do you like to do? An uplifting picture book

reminding readers that they can do wonderful things while teaching them fun facts about animals.

DUCKLING RUNS AWAY



AUTHOR: Margaret Wild
ILLUSTRATOR: Vivienne To
ISBN: 9781761065804
PUBLISHER: A & U Children
RELEASE DATE: 28 Feb 2023
READING AGE: 3 to 6 years

THEMES: family, adventure, duckling, baby animals, emotional regulation, anger management

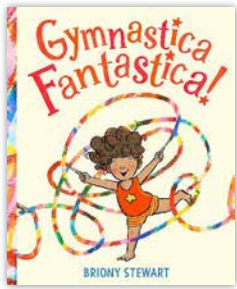
BOOK DESCRIPTION

Duckling is running away and she's never, ever coming back! Or is she? Luckily, no matter how far Duckling roams, a mother's love is always near. A reassuring story about love and trust from bestselling author Margaret Wild, with sweetly charming illustrations by Vivienne To.

NOVEL INSIGHT REVIEW

Duckling has decided to run away. Her mother asks her to come back before dark, but Duckling insists that she's never, ever, coming back! Away she goes, past the chicks, puppies, kittens, and piglets—and all the other baby animals—who urge her to play with them. But Duckling won't stay! She forges ahead into the woods until the sun goes down and she realises she doesn't remember why she was angry. All she wants is to go home to her mama. A sweet and gentle book full of adorable baby animals. The refrain "I'm running away!" is written in a different colour and style to the other text, which invites interactive call-and-response readings. The beautiful digital illustrations depict the changing light as the sun slowly sets over rolling green hills. The perfect book for nap time!

GYMNASTICA FANTASTICA!



AUTHOR/ ILLUSTRATOR:

Briony Stewart

ISBN: 9780734421852

PUBLISHER:

Lothian Children's Books

RELEASE DATE: 1 Nov 2023

READING AGE: 3 to 6 years

THEMES: gymnastics, sports, acrobatics, performing, circus, trapeze, learning new skills, CBCA 2024

BOOK DESCRIPTION

Quick! Come and see! Something fabulous, it's ... me!

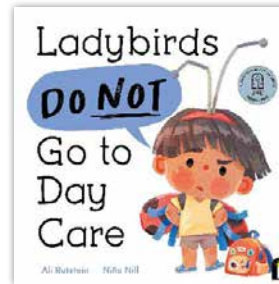
Gymnastica Fantastica! is a joyful and exuberant picture book about a child discovering and attempting new physical skills and putting on wonderfully imperfect shows for whoever will watch them.

Join Gymnastica, a small person with big energy, as they bend and balance, bounce and roll, attempt a cartwheel and a spectacular trapeze flip-out finale. Written in playful rhyming text and with brightly energetic and appealing illustrations, this is a book that kids and parents alike will find irresistible to read aloud and delight in its energy and humour.

NOVEL INSIGHT REVIEW

Gymnastica Fantastica loves to flip, twirl, roll and show off her gymnastics skills. A rhyming colourful story celebrating the joy of gymnastics and being proud of what you can do as a child. It is colourfully illustrated in the style of Briony Stewart.

LADYBIRDS DO NOT GO TO DAY CARE



AUTHOR: Ali Rutstein

ILLUSTRATOR: Niña Nill AU

ISBN: 9781761213113

PUBLISHER: Bright Light

RELEASE DATE: 29 Nov 2023

READING AGE: 3 to 6 years

THEMES: ladybird, bravery, courage, imagination, play, aphids, daycare, fear, nervous

CONTENT INSIGHT: Ravi says that his mandibles (teeth) are full of aphid guts. Mum laughs and says that is disgusting.

BOOK DESCRIPTION

Ladybirds Do Not Go to Day Care is a spirited, funny and empowering picture book to encourage even the most nervous of children to spread their wings and try something new.

Mum says it's the first day of day care, but Ravi's dressed up as his favourite insect, and he is quite certain that ladybirds do not go to day care. In fact, this ladybird would rather stay home and eat aphids, thank you very much!

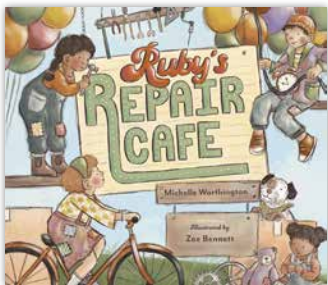
Can an anxious and unsure Ravi find the bravery he needs to take flight?

NOVEL INSIGHT REVIEW

Ravi loves ladybirds and only wants to do everything a ladybird would do. On his first day of daycare, he is nervous. Ladybirds don't go to daycare!. He comes downstairs, and his mother says his cornflakes are on the table. But ladybirds don't eat cornflakes. Ravi's mum corrects herself, pretending they are aphids, and Ravi slurps his bowl clean. He then races outside to find some fresh, crunchy aphids. It's cold outside, so Ravi's mum offers him a jumper.

Although he knows ladybirds don't wear jumpers, he is cold and decides to wear it—taking care not to crush his wings. Ravi is still uncertain about daycare but agrees to go if they fly there! When they get to daycare, Ravi wants to go home. But mum says they should check if ladybirds go to daycare first. Ravi takes a deep breath to remind himself that ladybirds are brave and heads for the flowerbeds. They see a ladybird, and Ravi learns that ladybirds do go to daycare. A sweet picture book about overcoming your fears and the power of encouragement.

RUBY'S REPAIR CAFE



AUTHOR:

Michelle Worthington 📍 AU

ILLUSTRATOR:

Zoe Bennett

ISBN: 9781922326805

PUBLISHER: New Frontier Publishing

RELEASE DATE: 1 Nov 2023

READING AGE: 3 to 6 years

THEMES: repair, repair cafe, upcycling, fixing things, problem solving, sustainability, environment, weather event, teamwork

REPRESENTATIONS: The townspeople are of different ages, races and ethnicities. There is a young amputee boy with prosthetic legs and a young girl in a wheelchair.

BOOK DESCRIPTION

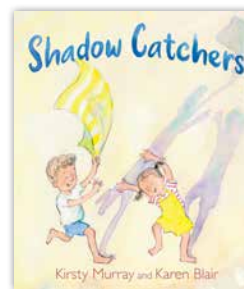
Ruby loves to fix things, rather than throwing them away. When a shiny new department store opens next door to Ruby's Repair Cafe, everyone in town soon forgets about fixing things.

But will Ruby be able to save her family business from big business before the rubbish takes over the town?

NOVEL INSIGHT REVIEW

Ruby's family own a repair cafe. The townsfolk bring in broken items to be fixed. When a department store opens next door, selling cheap and shiny items, the repair cafe goes out of business. People are rapidly buying and disposing of new products, causing the town dump to grow. During an extreme weather event, the trash is blown throughout the town, and the department store roof blows off. Ruby suggests the townsfolk help fix it together, and they all make it more beautiful than before. With a newfound unity, the repair cafe joins the department store as an extra department. A sweet story about teamwork with insights into the dangers of consumerism.

SHADOW CATCHERS



AUTHOR: Kirsty Murray

ILLUSTRATOR: Karen Blair

ISBN: 9781760526955

PUBLISHER: A & U Children

RELEASE DATE: 5 Feb 2023

READING AGE: 3 to 6 years

THEMES: siblings, playing together, discovery, shadows, overcoming fears, friendship, courage

BOOK DESCRIPTION

On sunny mornings, we go shadow catching.

Inside, outside, in our home and in our neighbourhood, shadows dance around us from morning through to night.

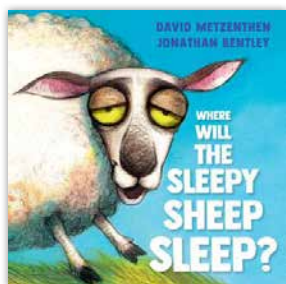
Our shadows are so tall, then small, then tall again in sunlight, lamplight and even in the moonlight.

A wonderful picture book about playfulness and the joy of light and movement.

NOVEL INSIGHT REVIEW

A boy and his little sister Ama love to play shadow catchers. They're amazed by the way their shadows stretch, shrink, and get bigger and smaller in different lights. At the playground, the boy runs after his sister's shadow as she plays on the swings, and later she decides to feed her shadow a strawberry. At night Ama is scared of her shadow—but as the little boy points out, even teddys have shadows! A sweet, dreamy and whimsical exploration of the wonder of shadows and light, childhood, and noticing the little things in life that we often take for granted. Soft-toned watercolour illustrations bring the children and their shadows to life, showing the joy of play and discovery. A great conversation starter for light and shadow which could lead into activities involving shadow puppets!

WHERE WILL THE SLEEPY SHEEP SLEEP?



AUTHOR: David Metzenthen
ILLUSTRATOR: Jonathan Bentley
ISBN: 9781761066160
PUBLISHER: A & U Children
RELEASE DATE: 29 Aug 2023

READING AGE: 3 to 6 years

THEMES: sleeping, funny, bed, bedtime, sheep, wolves, rhyming

BOOK DESCRIPTION

A gorgeous, funny, tongue-twisting picture book by two incredibly talented creators. Perfect for bedtime reading.

Do you think the sleepy sheep will sleep on top of this wild and windy hill?

Baah!

No-o-o, this windy hill is far too high and wild for a

sleepy sheep to sleep on!

Do you think the sleepy sheep will sleep deep down in this steep and stony valley?

Baah!

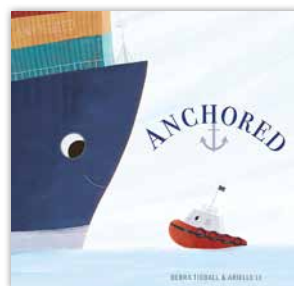
No-o-o, this valley is far too deep, steep, and stony for a sleepy sheep to sleep in!

So where will the sleepy sheep end up sleeping? A delight from beginning to end - bedtime reading at its best.

NOVEL INSIGHT REVIEW

This book is about a sleepy sheep who is looking for a place to rest. Unfortunately, everywhere he looks is uncomfortable, dangerous, or lonely. Thankfully, the sleepy sheep finally finally finds some rest in his herd of 100 other sleepy sheep. The story is told using rhymes and repetition, with full page illustrations on every page.

ANCHORED



AUTHOR: Debra Tidball
ILLUSTRATOR: Arielle Li
ISBN: 9781922539496
PUBLISHER: EK Books
RELEASE DATE: 4 May 2023
READING AGE: 3 to 7 years

THEMES: ships, ocean, distance, friendship, travel, loneliness, long-distance friendship, sadness

BOOK DESCRIPTION

In this sensitive tale, Tug and Ship are connected by bonds of love despite being oceans apart. Anchored honors the intrinsic value and worth of a child, the parent-child bond, attachment and the sustaining power of love. It's an empowering story that will give children a sense of pride and strength to get through the 'missing you' days.

NOVEL INSIGHT REVIEW

Each time Ship leaves the port, Tug is left behind. While Ship sails the sea, Tug keeps working hard at port, missing Ship more and more each day. But when Ship returns, Tug's world is bright again as Ship relays all the adventures it went on. Thanks to Ship's reassurance, Tug doesn't feel so sad when it's left behind again and knows that their friendship cannot be broken by the distance between them.

BIG DOG IS A BIG HELP



AUTHOR: Sally Rippin 📍 AU
ILLUSTRATOR: Lucinda Gifford
ISBN: 9781761210839
PUBLISHER: Little Hare
RELEASE DATE: 30 Aug 2023
READING AGE: 3 to 7 years

THEMES: camping, cooperation, family, humorous, animals, adventure, dogs, friends, helping, road trip, mischief

REPRESENTATIONS: The woman is a POC

BOOK DESCRIPTION

Big Dog and Little Dog go camping in this fun follow up to Sally Rippin and Lucinda Gifford's Big Dog, Little Dog.

Big Dog can't wait to go camping with Little Dog for the first time and show him how it's done. Big Dog is very good at helping! But things don't go as planned ...

A warm, funny picture book about newly blended families and learning to get along, from Australian Children's Laureate, Sally Rippin, and Lucinda Gifford.

A 2024 CBCA Early Childhood Book of the Year: Notable Book

NOVEL INSIGHT REVIEW

Little Dog joins a family with Big Dog and two humans. They go on a road trip, where Big Dog, convinced

he is a big help, constantly gets into mischief. To the dismay of his humans, Big Dog fetches the groceries but knocks them over, carries a pail but spills the water, cooks by putting the sausages in his mouth, and cleans by licking the dishes. Little Dog tags along in his mischief. During walkies, the humans ask Big Dog to look after Little Dog and they search for treasure in the water. When Big Dog and Little Dog roll mud in the humans' tent, Big Dog gets in trouble. He sulks until they all realise Little Dog is missing and Big Dog helps the humans track him down at the river. The humans thank him for helping and they all sleep together in the back of the car at the end. A sweet story about being helpful and making mistakes.

GRACE AND MR MILLIGAN



AUTHOR: Caz Goodwin
ILLUSTRATOR: Pip Kruger
ISBN: 9789815009811
PUBLISHER: Marshall Cavendish International
RELEASE DATE: 1 Jan 2023

READING AGE: 3 to 7 years

THEMES: grief, friendship, overcoming sadness, goat, losing pets, CBCA 2024

CONTENT INSIGHT: Death of a pet

BOOK DESCRIPTION

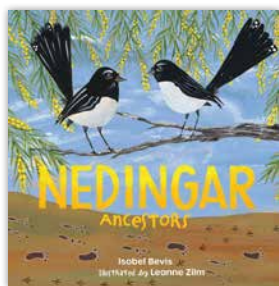
Grace lives next door to old Mr Milligan and his goat Charlie. They are the best of friends. But when Mr Milligan's beloved goat dies, everything changes. Will Grace be able to help her friend overcome his sadness? Grace and Mr Milligan is a heart-warming story of grief, love and the healing power of friendship.

NOVEL INSIGHT REVIEW

Grace lives next door to old Mr Milligan and his pet goat, Charlie. They eat fruit and cream together in his garden. One day, Charlie refuses to eat, so Mr

Milligan brings him to the vet who tells him there is nothing they can do as Charlie is too old. Forlorn, Mr Milligan brings Charlie to the seaside, visits Grace, strolls through the garden and lays under the apple tree until the stars come out and they drift off to sleep. In the morning, Mr Milligan wakes without Charlie. As weeks pass, Mr Milligan stays inside. Grace, worried about her friend, brings him fruit two days in a row. On the third day, she invites him to a picnic where she has prepared his favourite fruit. As Mr Milligan remembers how much Charlie loved picnics, Grace runs home and returns with a bowl of cream. Mr Milligan smiles for the first time since Charlie died, and tells Grace that this has made all the difference. The final pages show Grace, Milligan and a new pet baby goat having a picnic at the seaside. A gentle book about how to comfort someone experiencing grief.

NEDINGAR: ANCESTORS



AUTHOR: Isobel Bevis
ILLUSTRATOR: Leanne Zilm
ISBN: 9781760992712
PUBLISHER: Fremantle Press
RELEASE DATE: 29 Aug 2023
READING AGE: 4 to 7 years

THEMES: Indigeneous peoples, culture, ancestors, heritage, Australia

REPRESENTATIONS: Representation of Indigenous culture, including their connection to the ancestors

BOOK DESCRIPTION

This lyrical, dual language picture book from two debut First Nations creators celebrates the beauty of Country and family.

'Please Mum, I want to meet my ancestors, I want to learn from them so I know who I am.'

Inspired by traditional Indigenous teachings, every family will relate to this beautiful bilingual picture

book as brought to life by Noongar storytellers Isobel Bevis and Leanne Zilm highlighting the rich cultural heritage we all share. The book features gorgeously hand painted images of Australian flora and fauna.

NOVEL INSIGHT REVIEW

A child asks about the ancestors that are always spoken of. Then, through an adult's voice, it is shown that the ancestors are all around them all. Lovely illustrations invite the reader to relate to the appreciation of how their ancestors can be seen in the world around them. Written in both Noongar and English.

GURRIL, STORM BIRD



AUTHOR:
 Trevor Fourmile AU
ILLUSTRATOR: Jingalu AU
ISBN: 97819222613455
PUBLISHER:
 Magabala Books

RELEASE DATE: 1 Jun 2023

READING AGE: 4 to 8 years

THEMES: aboriginal, indigenous, storm bird, rainbow serpent, rainbow snake, arrogance, humility, power, lesson, growth, learning, family, change

REPRESENTATIONS: Based on a Gimuy Walubara Yidinji traditional story, explaining some of the cultural beliefs held by the First Nations People of Cairns.

BOOK DESCRIPTION

Based on a traditional story from the Gimuy Walubara Yidinji First Nations people of Cairns, it has been told by many generations.

Gurril could not understand why everyone was afraid of a snake, even if it was Gudju-gudju, the rainbow serpent! But he was soon to discover just how powerful Gudju-gudju really was and why it is not a good idea to torment the rainbow serpent.

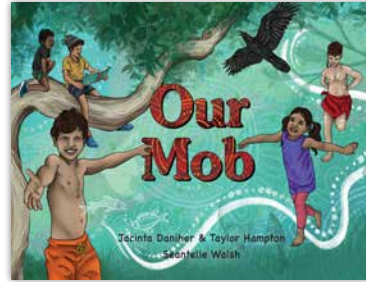
Gurril, Storm Bird is a Gimuy Walubara (pronounced ghee-moy-wah-la-burra) Yidinji traditional story that helps to explain the cultural beliefs held by the Yidinji First Nations People of Cairns. The Gimuy Walubarra are the traditional custodians of Cairns and the surrounding regions.

This story has been told orally by many generations over thousands of years and is intrinsic to the Yidinji culture, both past and present. The call of the storm bird helps the Yidinji people prepare for the arrival of rain or the wet season. During the dry season the Gimuy Walubara people would dance and mimic the storm bird to bring in the rain.

NOVEL INSIGHT REVIEW

Gurril loves listening to stories about Gudju-gudju, the rainbow serpent. Although others were afraid of the serpent's power, Gurril did not understand why. One day, Gurril went walking to the cave where the rainbow serpent slept. He would decide if the serpent should be feared. Tired of waiting, Gurril picked up a stone and threw it toward the cave. But, nothing happened. Gurril threw another stone, and the ground began to shake. The rainbow serpent slithered out of its cave, looking for the creature that had wakened him. To show Gudju-gudju that he was not afraid, Gurril decided to wait until night to torment the snake. Using embers to make black paint, Gurril painted his body to stay hidden. He began to throw rocks again and Gudju-gudju became very angry. Gurril laughed and taunted the great serpent, thinking he could never be found. But the rainbow serpent was angry and wanted to teach Gurril a lesson. He declared that Gurril would become a storm bird. Every time he calls out his name, the rain will follow. Gurril started to shrink and grow feathers, and even now, you can hear Gurril singing his name before the rain comes. A beautifully illustrated story based on a Gimuy Walubara Yidinji traditional story.

OUR MOB

**AUTHOR:**

Jacinta Daniher 📍 AU &

Taylor Hampton 📍 AU

ILLUSTRATOR:

Seantelle Walsh 📍 AU

ISBN: 9781922696236**PUBLISHER:** Ford Street Publishing**RELEASE DATE:** 1 May 2023**READING AGE:** 4 to 8 years

THEMES: ancestors, family, aboriginal, country, didgeridoo, nature, land, boomerangs, wildlife, hunting, dreaming, stories, camping, fishing, ritual

CONTENT INSIGHT: Mentions that Nash's Ancestors hunted animals like emus or kangaroos with boomerangs. It helped to feed their mob.

REPRESENTATIONS: Contains Aboriginal history, culture, and language. Each Aboriginal kid says hello to the reader with a different greeting. The greeting is written in the native language and translated to English in brackets. Olive's favourite painting is of two dingoes and Bunjil, the spiritual creator of Country.

BOOK DESCRIPTION

Join our yarnning circle and listen to our stories.

Our Mob proudly celebrates our Aboriginal culture.

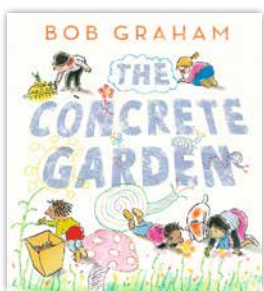
Our Mob explores Aboriginal culture and how it is practised within families today through the perspective of a preschool child.

NOVEL INSIGHT REVIEW

In this yarnning circle, you can be proud of who you are. Ella, a proud kid from Ngiyampaa Country, loves playing music with her dad. He plays a handmade didgeridoo, and she plays the clapsticks she was

gifted by her uncle. Lylah, a proud Aboriginal kid from Kuku Yalanji Country, gathers around the fire to make bush bread with her family. She knows that the Country will look after them. Nash is a proud Aboriginal kid from Taungurung Country. He loves to throw boomerangs on the oval with his brothers. Arlo is a proud Aboriginal kid from Winadjuri Country. Pop tells Arlo Dreaming stories at bedtime. Kaiden, a proud Aboriginal kid from Wirangu Country, loves camping and fishing with his family. Thea is a proud Aboriginal kid from Wadjak Country. Her mum loves to paint the sun, stars, and animals. Together, they paint the stories of the native wildlife. Addie, a proud Aboriginal kid from Larrakia Country, loves gathering with her mob for a smoking ceremony. This helps them reconnect with the land. Hadley is a proud Aboriginal kid from Duduroa Country. She sits in a yarning circle at preschool, speaking and listening from the heart. Olive is a proud Aboriginal kid from Djab Wurrung Country. She goes on bushwalks with her family and loves looking at the rock art. Jangala is a proud Aboriginal kid from Miriwoong Country. Jangala stays healthy using bush medicine, like their Ancestors. Jarli is a proud Aboriginal kid from Wik Country. He loves to play edor, a traditional Indigenous game. Charlyse is a proud Aboriginal girl from Iutruwita Country. She collects shells at spring tide with her nan. Eli is a proud Aboriginal kid from Gamilaraay Country. His uncle tells him about the stories in the stars. Lola is a proud Aboriginal kid from Yolngu Country. Her grandma is a master basket-weaver. A powerful portrayal of Aboriginal culture through the eyes of children.

THE CONCRETE GARDEN



AUTHOR/ ILLUSTRATOR:

Bob Graham 📍 AU

ISBN: 9781529512649

PUBLISHER:

Walker Books Australia

RELEASE DATE: 2 Aug 2023

READING AGE: 4 to 8 years

THEMES: covid, uplifting, outside, concrete, drawing, chalk, pavement, encouragement, joy, friendship, play, imagination, colour, rainbow, optimism, CBCA 2024

CONTENT INSIGHT: One illustration shows a dog peeing on the drawn flowers.

REPRESENTATIONS: Illustrations show diverse cultures. Nasrin is lonely for her mum in faraway Isfahan (a city in Iran). The adults in the story are all depicted in masks. The children are not wearing them.

BOOK DESCRIPTION

A timely, inspiring and uplifting story about hope and the power of creative expression, from one of the world's most treasured bookmakers.

After a cold, dark winter, doors opened. Children spilled out like sweets from a box. Amanda was last one out of the tower block. She brought some chalk with her. On every inch of the concrete outside, the children drew pictures of everything they could think of, from flowers and snails, to spaceships and queens. Before long, a beautiful and exotic garden spread out across the concrete.

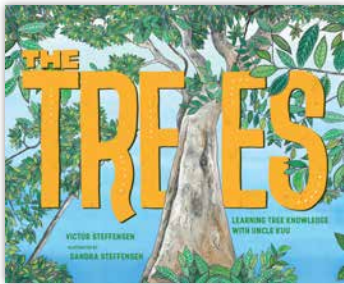
From master storyteller Bob Graham comes a charming, and gently post-pandemic story about finding optimism after a dark spell, and the nurturing power of community friendships in an urban setting. The Concrete Garden will resonate with anyone who has been apart from their loved ones, and will encourage us all to find the brightness and colour within ourselves.

NOVEL INSIGHT REVIEW

After being trapped inside for a cold winter, the children are let back outside. Amanda brought chalk and started drawing on the pavement. Jackson turned her drawing into a dandelion. Then Janet worked hard on a bright pink mushroom, the Bradley twins added flowers, and Lovejoy drew an enormous snail. Although Luke's dog smudged the flowers, Indira added foliage and a palm tree! The twins added a

cloud, and Cecilia, an alien invader. But Rosie stood to ponder. What should she create? The Queen of Swirls! A captivating garden continued to spread across the concrete, with a Queen ruling it all. Nasrin, lonely for her mum in faraway Isfahan, took a picture of the concrete garden from her apartment and sent it to her mum. The picture was sent across the world, uplifting all who saw it. After a few days, the rain washed the garden away. But the kids weren't sad because the gutters were filled with rainbows. A heartwarming story about the joy and imagination of children uplifting those struggling with isolation.

THE TREES

**AUTHOR:**

Victor Steffensen

ILLUSTRATOR:

Sandra Steffensen

ISBN: 9781741178876**PUBLISHER:** Hardie Grant Explore**RELEASE DATE:** 13 Dec 2023**READING AGE:** 4 to 10 years

THEMES: deforestation, wildlife, land, country, teaching, educational, learning, gifts, trees, nature, rainforests, grasslands, cassowaries, australia, bushfires

CONTENT INSIGHT: Shows the dangers of deforestation for wildlife and the land.

REPRESENTATIONS: Contains Aboriginal people and their cultural practices.

BOOK DESCRIPTION

Take a walk with Uncle Kuu in *The Trees*, a picture book about caring for Country and respect for Indigenous knowledge.

Looking after the trees is important for keeping Country happy and healthy. First Nations

People have cared for the trees on Country for thousands of years. In return, the trees look after the people and provide them with gifts of seeds, flowers, wood and more. This creates the balance between giving and taking from the land.

Featuring stunning artwork by Sandra Steffensen, *The Trees* is a powerful and timely story to help future generations manage our landscapes and ensure that they thrive. At the back of the book, you will find lyrics to a song written by author Victor Steffensen with the title, 'We are the Trees', and a QR code to watch the song's YouTube video.

This book is the follow-up to Victor Steffensen's *Looking after Country with Fire*, which explains Aboriginal burning practices for children.

NOVEL INSIGHT REVIEW

Trees are the Elders of Country. Uncle Kuu takes a group of children out to explore, and they learn about the family groups of trees and their role in the environment. Rainforest canopies attract rain to make their home lush and green. Trees in grassland need fire to make new trees. Water trees love rivers and lagoons. Their shade keeps the water cool, and the roots hold riverbanks. Trees also give many gifts, including bush tea and tasty fruit. Aboriginal tribes followed the lore of the trees for thousands of years—you must take gifts from the trees without killing them. Unfortunately, many people have disobeyed these lores, and the land has become sick. Plants and animals are becoming extinct. Thankfully, people are learning now, but work is needed to repair the damage. An engaging and educational story about the value of trees and the necessity it is to keep them alive. Contains a song called "The Trees" and sheet music at the back of the book.

WE'RE MOVING AWAY



AUTHOR/ ILLUSTRATOR:

Niña Nill AU

ISBN: 9781761212321

PUBLISHER: Bright Light

RELEASE DATE: 2 Aug 2023

READING AGE: 4 to 10 years

THEMES: family, moving away, new places, home, facing change, moving, family, goodbye, transition, moving countries, moving houses, packing, friends, travel, new experiences

REPRESENTATIONS: The characters in this story are of different races and ethnicities. Several people wear glasses.

BOOK DESCRIPTION

Our family is moving to a new country.

We can't take all our things, so we need to make a list ...

In this warm-hearted and lovingly detailed picture book, Niña Nill weaves a story about the pieces of ourselves we bring along when we move, the things we have to leave behind, and how we rebuild a sense of home.

We're Moving Away is the perfect book for any family facing change – no matter how big or how small.

A 2024 CBCA Early Childhood Book of the Year: Notable Book

NOVEL INSIGHT REVIEW

A family moves out of their home to a new country. They make a list of things to pack, and the two small children are sad to say goodbye to some of their things. One page spread shows all the items to bring with them and others they will leave behind. They pack and say goodbye to their friends and their empty house. In their new country, their new house is also empty, and the young boy feels unsure about the space, though his mother reassures him everything takes time. Another page spread shows the items they unpack and the items they need to buy. They visit new places and meet new people, and soon their new house is furnished and filled with people. They are home again. The final page shows the family speaking to old friends on a laptop. A poignant but positive look at moving houses and what makes a home.

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