

UNLOCK & MAGNIFY YOUR WORLD... BOOK by BOOK



Reading through a
Lens

Ancient History

Pharaoh – Jackie French



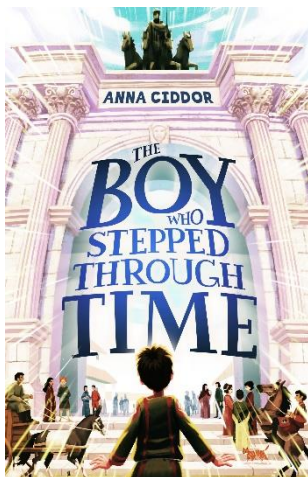
How far do you have to journey to become a king?

The people call Prince Narmer 'The Golden One' - a boy with the brightest future ahead of him. Handsome and talented, he is destined to be King of Thinis, the greatest town in Egypt and, for Narmer, the centre of the world. Then his whole life changes overnight.

A devastating accident forces him to give up his right to the throne and sends him journeying across the ancient Middle East with the mysterious trader, the crippled Nitho and a tamed wildcat called Bast. And as he travels through the desert and visits the great cities of Punt and Sumer, he learns that Thinis is actually a very small place indeed.

But can he ever truly forget his homeland? When he decides to pay one last visit to Thinis, he will discover what it really means to be a leader, and will find his destiny fulfilled beyond his wildest expectations.

The Boy Who Stepped Through Time – Anna Ciddor



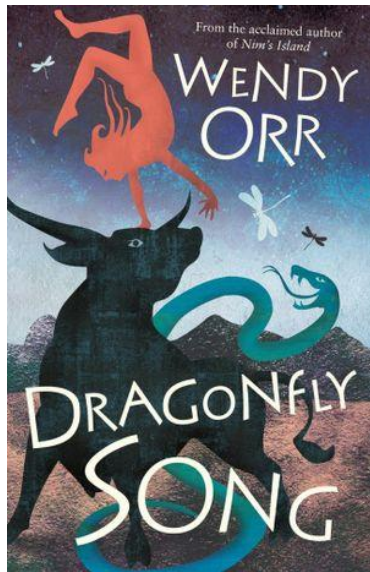
An accidental trip back to the Roman Empire sets off a race against time to save a friendship - and a life. A thrilling time-slip adventure from a much-loved Australian author.

When Perry steps into a crumbling ruin while on holiday in France, he is not expecting to be transported back 1700 years to Roman times. While he hunts desperately for a way home, he must blend in as a slave - even if it means eating mice for dinner!

Gradually, Perry is caught up in the fascinating world of grand Villa Rubia and a life he could never have imagined. But when he makes a new friend, he thinks he might already know her terrible fate.

Perry is faced with an impossible choice: to find his way home or stay and guard his friend's life - and risk being trapped in the past forever...

Dragonfly Song – Wendy Orr



Abandoned by the priestess of the island at birth, Aissa is an outcast, surviving by her wits - until she joins the acrobatic bull dancers who are sent away to compete on the island of the Bull King. A gripping and powerful adventure by acclaimed author Wendy Orr.

There are two ways of looking at Aissa's story. She's the miracle girl who escaped the raiders. Or she's the cursed child who called the Bull King's ship to the island.

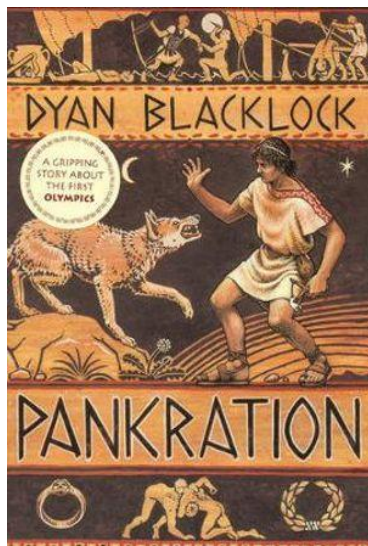
The firstborn daughter of a priestess is cast out as a baby, and after raiders kill her adopted family, she is abandoned at the gates of the Great Hall, anonymous and mute. Called No-Name, the cursed child, she is raised a slave, and not until she is twelve does she learn her name is Aissa: the dragonfly.

Now every year the Bull King takes a tribute from the island: two thirteen-year-old children to brave the bloody bull dances in his royal court. None have ever returned - but for Aissa it is the only escape.

Aissa is resilient, resourceful, and fast - but to survive the bull ring, she will have to learn the mystery of her true nature.

A riveting, mythic Bronze Age adventure from award-winning author Wendy Orr.

Pankration – Dyan Blacklock

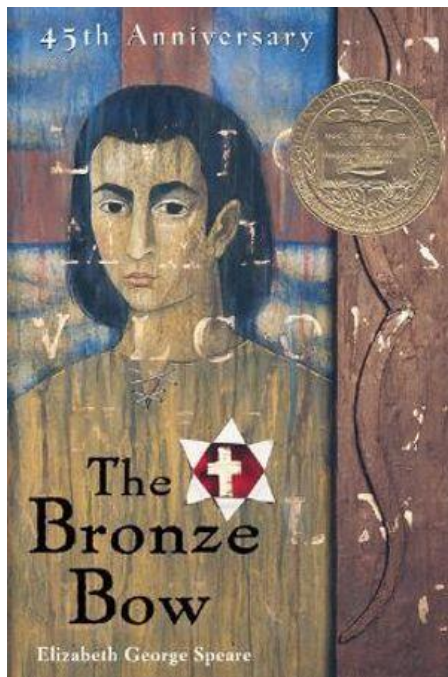


Pirates, a wolf-fight, kidnap - a thrilling life-and-death story about the first Olympics.

The two men were circling each other with all the angry energy of fighting bulls, in front of a crowd that was already wild with excitement. The Pankration was what most of the onlookers had come to Olympia to see; the strongest men in Greece fighting bare-fisted and unarmed, until one of them surrendered, or died. This was blood sport...

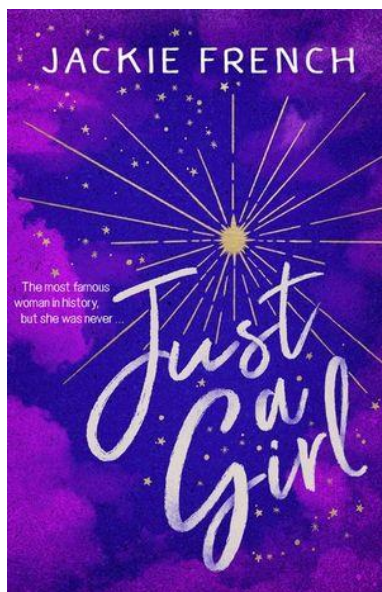
Nic is on the run; from the plague in Athens, from savage pirates, and from the slave who wants him dead. If only he can reach Olympia and find his friend Gellius, he'll be safe - or will he? At Olympia the last and most terrible of his enemies is waiting...

The Bronze Bow – Elizabeth George Speare



He trains my hands for war, so that my arms can bend a bow of bronze. –from the Song of David (2 Samuel 22:35) *The Bronze Bow*, written by Elizabeth George Speare (author of *The Witch of Blackbird Pond*) won the Newbery Medal in 1962. This gripping, action-packed novel tells the story of eighteen-year-old Daniel bar Jamin—a fierce, hotheaded young man bent on revenging his father's death by forcing the Romans from his land of Israel. Daniel's palpable hatred for Romans wanes only when he starts to hear the gentle lessons of the traveling carpenter, Jesus of Nazareth. A fast-paced, suspenseful, vividly wrought tale of friendship, loyalty, the idea of home, community . . . and ultimately, as Jesus says to Daniel on page 224: "Can't you see, Daniel, it is hate that is the enemy? Not men. Hate does not die with killing. It only springs up a hundredfold. The only thing stronger than hate is love." A powerful, relevant read in turbulent times.

Just a Girl – Jackie French



Mary, the mother of Jesus, was a truly extraordinary woman. And after 2000 years, the story of her brave and remarkable life continues to inspire and enthrall us, as that young woman from Nazareth was never 'just a girl'.

Who was Mary of Nazareth, the most famous woman in all of history? In 72 AD, as the Roman army pillages Judea and destroys their village, killing and enslaving its inhabitants, fourteen-year-old Judith hides with her younger sister, her great-grandmother Rabba and an unwilling goat in a storage cave used for storage. Judith is 'just a girl', but her skills will save them - and help escaped Roman slave Caius survive as well.

Wolves - and humans - threaten them all during that long, icy winter, but there are feasts of stored, and scavenged food to enjoy as they listen to Rabba tell stories of her youth; of her wealthy marriage in Jerusalem and her life in Nazareth as a child. But there is one story Rabba will not tell, no matter how

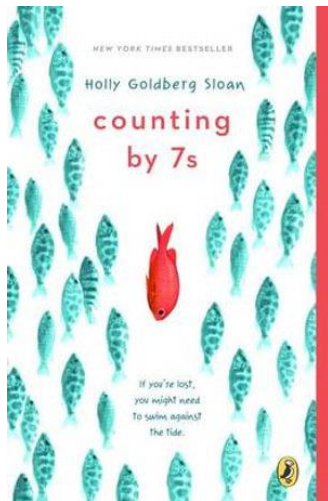
much they coax her. It is the story of Maryiam, her beloved friend who faced the scandal and shame of an unwed pregnancy and the anguish of seeing her son crucified.

Yet the example of the woman Maryiam, who showed how pain and humiliation can become the most joyous story in the world, will give Judith and her younger sister and Caius the courage to step beyond their refuge. Because like Judith, 'Maryiam of Nazareth' was never 'just a girl'.

Based on primary sources, this book tells the story of the Mary behind the legend, of her life and her extraordinary legacy, still an inspiration after 2000 years.

Empathy

Counting by 7s – Holly Goldberg Sloan

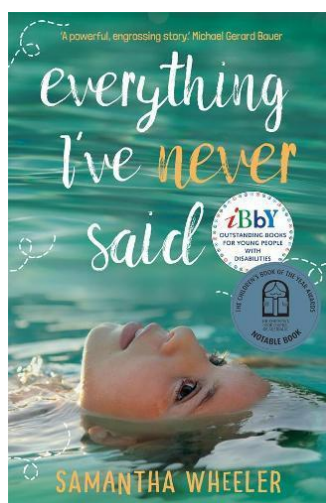


In the tradition of *Out of My Mind*, *Wonder*, and *Mockingbird*, this is an intensely moving middle grade novel about being an outsider, coping with loss, and discovering the true meaning of family.

Willow Chance is a twelve-year-old genius, obsessed with nature and diagnosing medical conditions, who finds it comforting to count by 7s. It has never been easy for her to connect with anyone other than her adoptive parents, but that hasn't kept her from leading a quietly happy life . . . until now.

Suddenly Willow's world is tragically changed when her parents both die in a car crash, leaving her alone in a baffling world. The triumph of this book is that it is *not* a tragedy. This extraordinarily odd, but extraordinarily endearing, girl manages to push through her grief. Her journey to find a fascinatingly diverse and fully believable surrogate family is a joy and a revelation to read.

Everything I've Never Said – Samantha Wheeler

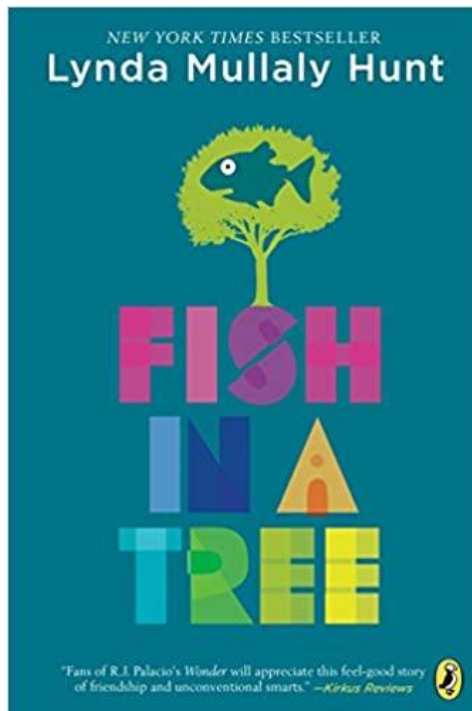


Ava would like nothing more than to tell her family she loves them, particularly her big sister, Nic. But Ava has Rett syndrome - she can't talk, can't nod her head, can't even point at a communication card. She understands everything, but no one understands her.

When tragedy strikes her family, Ava becomes even more determined to talk. But it's not until she meets occupational therapist Kieran and new friend Aimee that she is hopeful for change - and to find her voice at last.

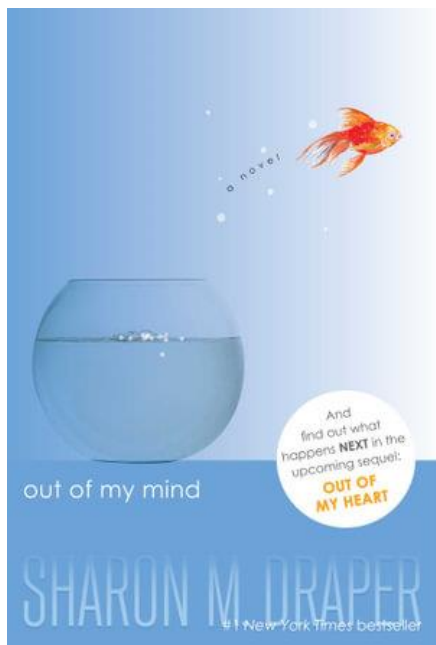
A powerful novel about a subject rarely tackled - young people with disabilities and the families who love and support them.

Fish in a Tree- Lynda Mullaly Hunt



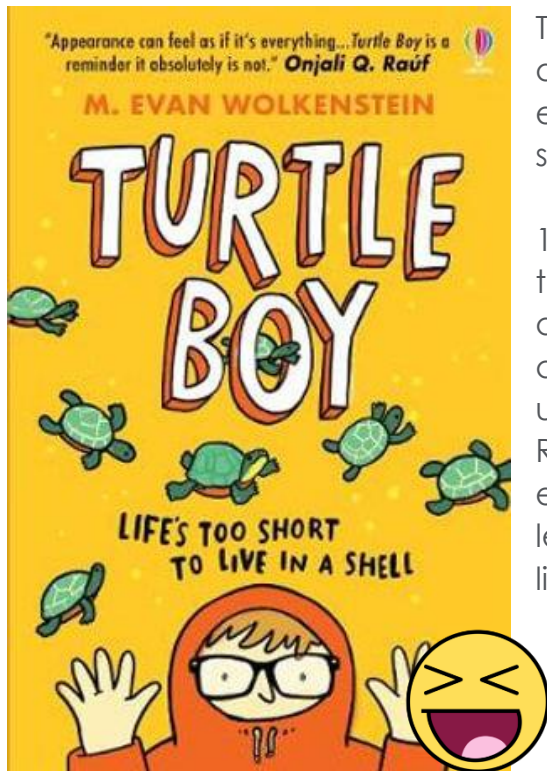
Ally has been smart enough to fool a lot of smart people. Every time she lands in a new school, she is able to hide her inability to read by creating clever yet disruptive distractions. She is afraid to ask for help; after all, how can you cure dumb? However, her newest teacher Mr. Daniels sees the bright, creative kid underneath the trouble maker. With his help, Ally learns not to be so hard on herself and that dyslexia is nothing to be ashamed of. As her confidence grows, Ally feels free to be herself and the world starts opening up with possibilities. She discovers that there's a lot more to her-and to everyone-than a label, and that great minds don't always think alike.

Out of my Mind – Sharon Draper



Melody is not like most people. She cannot walk or talk, but she has a photographic memory; she can remember every detail of everything she has ever experienced. She is smarter than most of the adults who try to diagnose her and smarter than her classmates in her integrated classroom the very same classmates who dismiss her as mentally challenged, because she cannot tell them otherwise. But Melody refuses to be defined by cerebral palsy. And she's determined to let everyone know it... somehow.

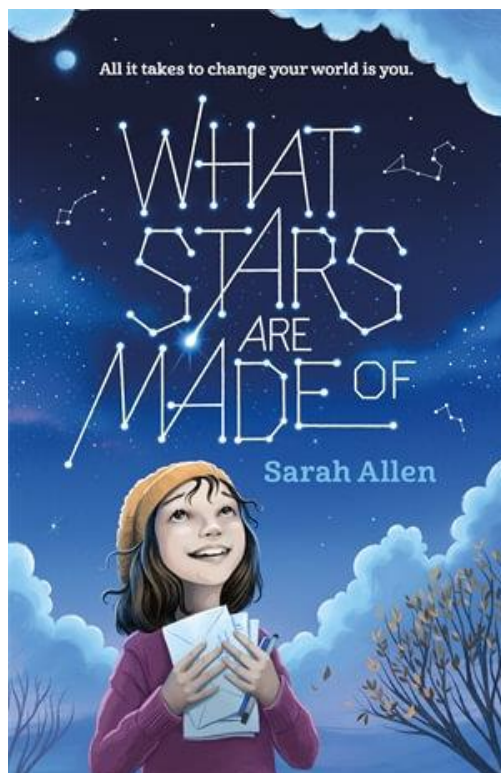
Turtle Boy – M. Evan Wolkenstein



The heartwarming and heartbreaking story of a boy who's afraid to live, learning to embrace the life he has from a boy who soon may die.

12-year-old Will likes two things: turtles and the local nature preserve. Everything else is a nightmare, because Will has a facial difference that has earned him an unfortunate nickname. But when Will meets RJ, who is confined to a hospital room, each boy discovers they have strength to lend the other and that life is too short to live in a shell.

What Stars are Made of – Sarah Allen



Libby was born with a heart three sizes too big. She takes daily shots, can't do monkey bars, and doesn't always read social cues. But having Turner Syndrome doesn't mean she can't be a scientist when she grows up. Besides her big sister Nonny, Libby's hero is astronomer Cecilia Payne, who discovered what stars are made of. When Nonny comes home to stay and tells Libby that she and her husband Thomas are having a baby, Libby knows what to do: She'll make Cecilia Payne the subject of her entry into a contest, and give all the first-place prize money—twenty-five thousand dollars!—to Nonny's growing family. But it'll take more tenacity than she's ever needed to help take care of the sister who has always taken care of her, all while navigating middle school with a unique set of challenges.

Sofa Surfer – Malcolm Duffy

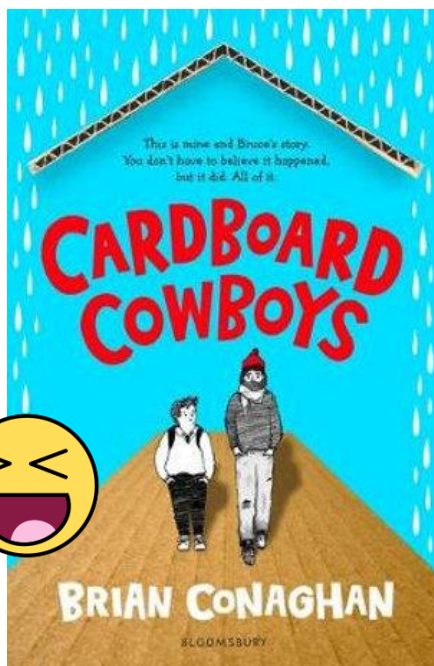


Written with humour and heart, *Sofa Surfer* looks at what it means to be homeless. Malcolm Duffy's debut novel *Me Mam. Me Dad. Me.*, about domestic violence, was shortlisted for the Waterstones Children's Prize 2019, longlisted for the Branford Boase Award 2019 and selected for World Book Night.

15-year-old Tyler's teenage angst turns to outright rebellion when his family leave London for a new life in Yorkshire. He's angry with his parents about the upheaval and furious at losing his home. With only the dog to confide in, Tyler has no idea that a chance meeting with a skinny girl called Spider will lead him into a world he never even knew existed. Spider is living on the streets and Tyler finds himself spinning a tangled web of lies in his efforts to help her escape from this dark and dangerous place.

Sofa Surfer shows how empathy and action can help those sleeping rough. As with his widely praised debut *Me Mam. Me Dad. Me.*, Malcolm Duffy finds humour and heart even in dire situations. Relevant, warm and rewarding *Sofa Surfer* is about what happens when going home isn't an option.

Cardboard Cowboys – Brian Conaghan



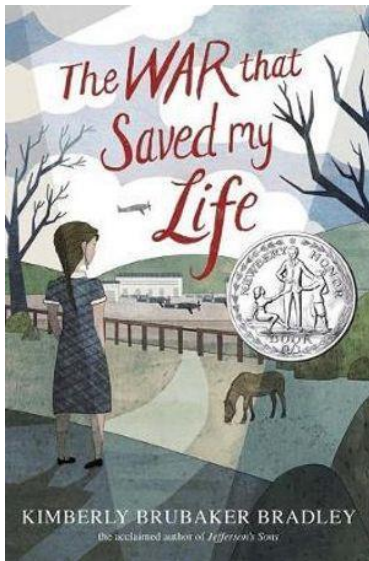
I'm not a genius. Not yet anyway. But Bruce is. Even though I found him living in a house made of cardboard, he's a massive genius. Fact. So this is mine and Bruce's story. You don't have to believe any of it happened, but it did. All of it.

Nobody at school can see past Lenny's size to the person within, and he's sick of trying to make them. So when lessons gets too tough, he always goes to his bench to think. At least there no one can see him. But one day, midway through lobbing his empty can of IrnBru into the river, he's stopped by Bruce. Bruce lives in a cardboard home hidden away by the banks, and he doesn't approve of people messing up his front lawn...

But a bumpy start soon gives way to an unexpected friendship - and an epic roadtrip - that will change both of them for life.

War/Refugees/Displaced Persons

The War that Saved my Life – Kimberley Brubaker Bradley



An exceptionally moving story of triumph against all odds set during World War 2, from the acclaimed author of *Jefferson's Sons* and for fans of *Number the Stars*.

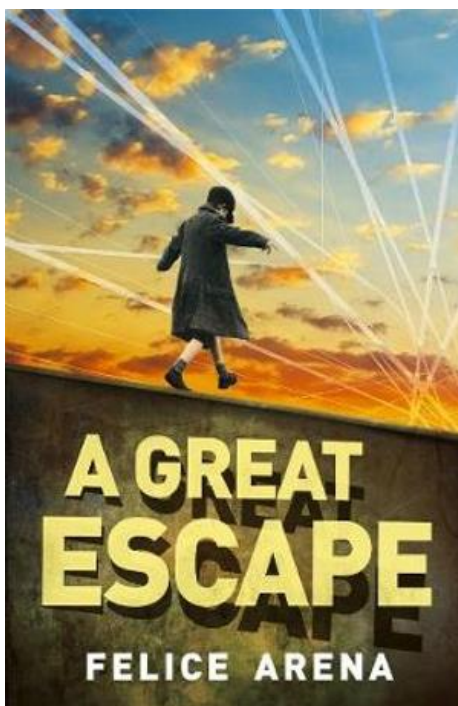
Nine-year-old Ada has never left her one-room apartment. Her mother is too humiliated by Ada's twisted foot to let her outside. So when her little brother Jamie is shipped out of London to escape the war, Ada doesn't waste a minute—she sneaks out to join him.

So begins a new adventure of Ada, and for Susan Smith, the woman who is forced to take the two kids in. As Ada teaches herself to ride a pony, learns to read, and watches for German spies, she begins to trust Susan—and Susan begins to love Ada and Jamie. But in the end, will their bond be enough to hold

them together through wartime? Or will Ada and her brother fall back into the cruel hands of their mother?

This masterful work of historical fiction is equal parts adventure and a moving tale of family and identity—a classic in the making.

A Great Escape – Felice Arena

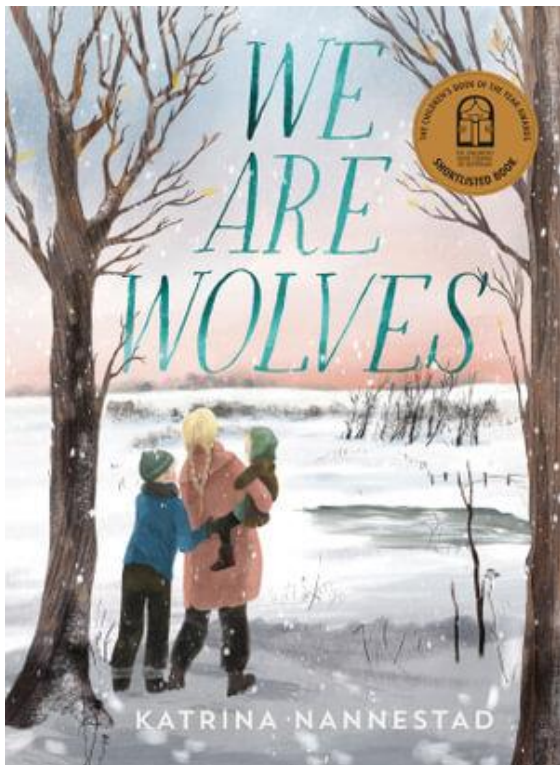


Set in Cold War Germany, *A Great Escape* is a story of true-life heroism and the unbreakable bonds of family, by the acclaimed author of *Fearless Frederic* and *The Boy and the Spy*.

It's a great escape, but will Peter survive it?

When Peter's family leaves for a trip across the border, he stays behind. So when the government builds a wall through the city, guarded by soldiers, tanks and ferocious dogs, he's trapped. Everyone says he might never see his family again. But Peter has a courageous plan . .

We Are Wolves – Katrina Nannestad



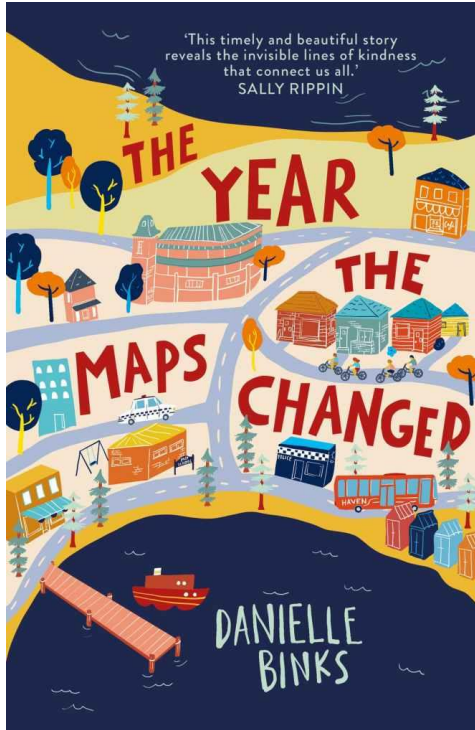
Sometimes it's good to be wild.

When the Russian Army marches into East Prussia at the end of the war, the Wolf family must flee. Liesl, Otto and their baby sister Mia find themselves lost and alone, in a blizzard, in the middle of a war zone. Liesl has promised Mama that she will keep her brother and sister safe.

But sometimes, to survive, you have to do bad things. Dangerous things. Wild things.

Sometimes to survive, you must become a wolf.

The Year the Maps Changed – Danielle Binks



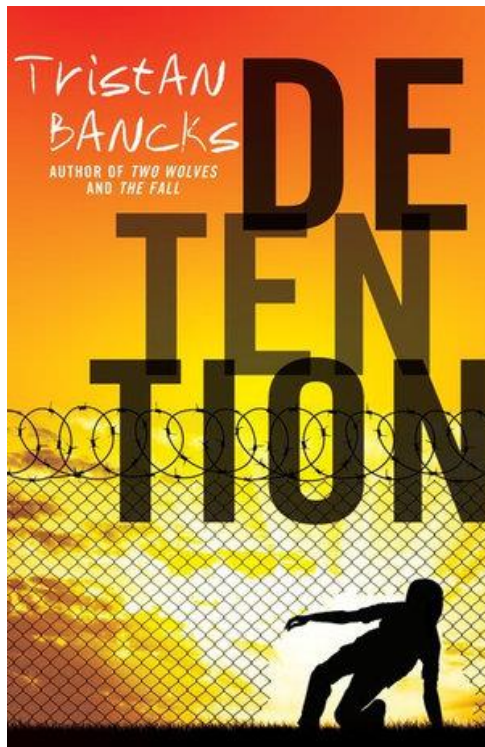
One extraordinary year will change them all...

Sorrento, Victoria, 1999. Fred's family is a mess. Her mother died when she was six and she's been raised by her Pop and adoptive father, Luca, ever since. But now Pop's had to go away, and Luca's girlfriend Anika and her son have moved in. More and more it feels like a land-grab for family and Fred is the one being left off the map.

Even as things feel like they're spinning out of control for Fred, a crisis from the other side of the world comes crashing in. When a group of Kosovar-Albanian refugees are brought to a government 'safe haven' not far from Sorrento, their fate becomes intertwined with the lives of Fred and her family in ways that no one could have expected.

A middle-grade coming-of-age story inspired by true events about the bonds of family, the weight of grief and the power of compassion for fans of *The Bone Sparrow*, *Wolf Hollow* and *The Thing About Jellyfish*.

Detention – Tristan Bancks



A daring escape. A school lockdown. A thrilling chase. What would you risk to save a life?

Sima and her family are pressed to the rough, cold ground among fifty others. They lie next to the tall fence designed to keep them in. The wires are cut one by one.

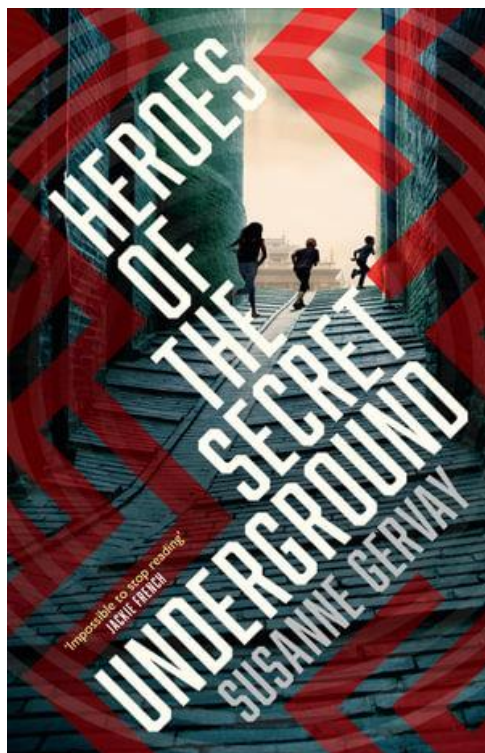
When they make their escape, a guard raises the alarm. Shouting, smoke bombs, people tackled to the ground. In the chaos Sima loses her parents.

Dad told her to run, so she does, hiding in a school and triggering a lockdown. A boy, Dan, finds her hiding in the toilet block.

What should he do? Help her? Do her in? She's breaking the law, but is it right to lock kids up? And if he helps, should Sima trust him? Or run?

THIS MOMENT, THESE DECISIONS, WILL CHANGE THE COURSE OF THEIR LIVES.

Heroes of the Secret Underground – Susanne Gervay



A timely and powerful time-slip story inspired by the author's family in Budapest during the Holocaust

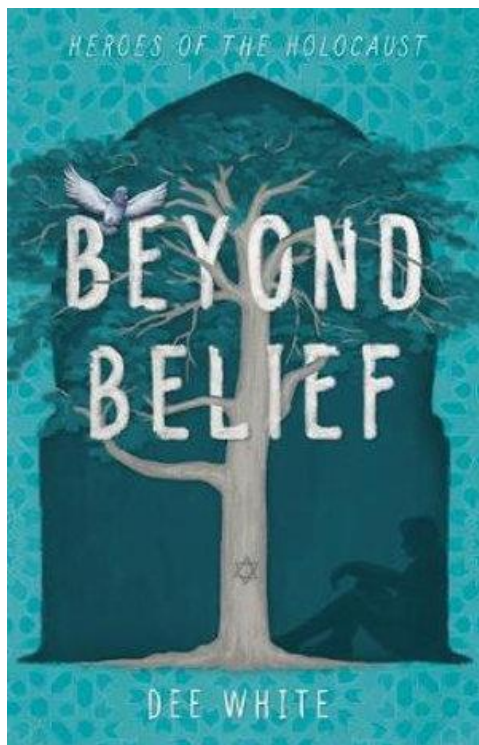
Louie lives with her brothers, Bert and Teddy, in a hotel run by their grandparents. It is one of Sydney's grand old buildings, rich in history ... and in secrets.

When a rose-gold locket, once thought lost, is uncovered, it sends Louie and her brothers spinning back in time. Back to a world at war: Budapest in the winter of 1944, where their grandparents are hiding secrets of their own ...

From bestselling author Susanne Gervay comes a heart-racing timeslip story inspired

by her own family's escape from Budapest during the Holocaust.

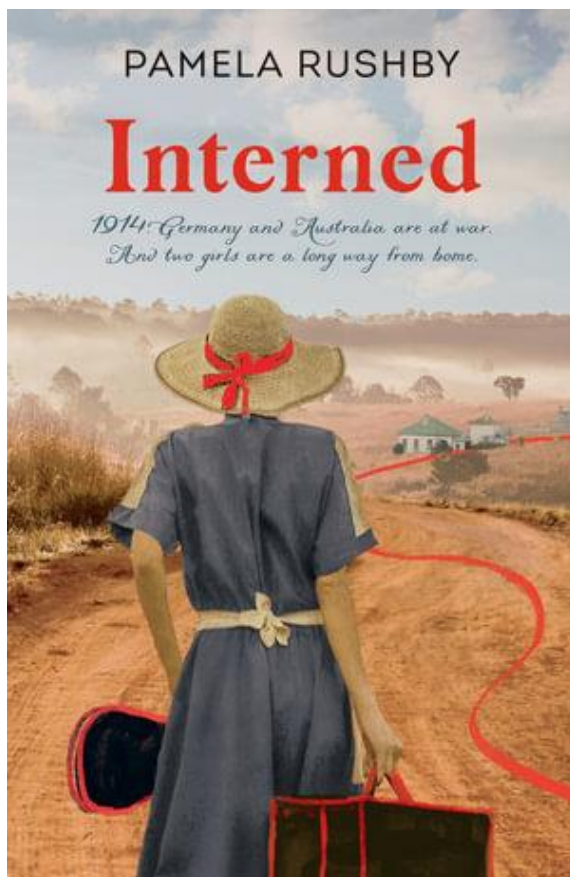
Beyond Belief – Dee White



Inspired by the true story of Muslims who saved the lives of Jewish children in the Second World War. In 1942, in the Grand Mosque in Paris, 11-year-old Ruben is hiding from the Nazis. Already thousands of Jewish children have disappeared, and Ruben's parents are desperately trying to find his sister. Ruben must learn how to pass himself off as a Muslim, while he waits for the infamous Fox to help him get to Spain to be reunited with his family. One hint of Ruben's true identity and he'll be killed. So will the people trying to save him. But when the mosque is raided and the Fox doesn't come, Ruben is forced to flee.

Finding himself in the south of France, he discovers that he must adjust to a new reality, and to the startling revelation of the Fox's true identity.

Interned – Pamela Rushby

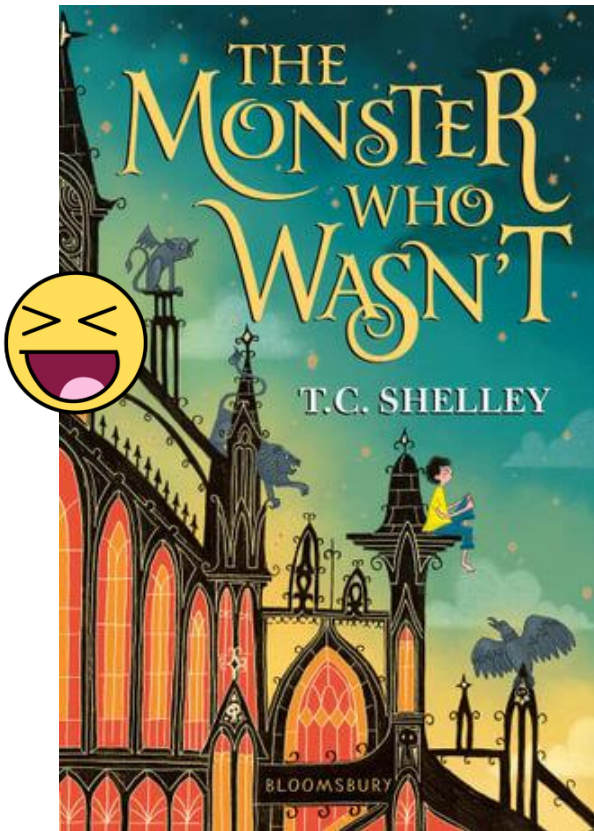


Based on true events, *Interned* is a moving, well-researched and evocative historical fiction novel that highlights an often forgotten moment in Australian history.

It's 1914. Gretta lives a privileged life in Singapore, the daughter of a businessman; Tilly lives a modest life in Brisbane, the daughter of a baker. When war breaks out and both countries turn on their families for being German, the two girls find themselves taken from their homes, interned at a camp in rural New South Wales. Far away from everything they have ever known, Gretta and Tilly are forced to face prejudice, overcome adversity and to make their own community.

Speculative

The Monster Who Wasn't – T. C. Shelley



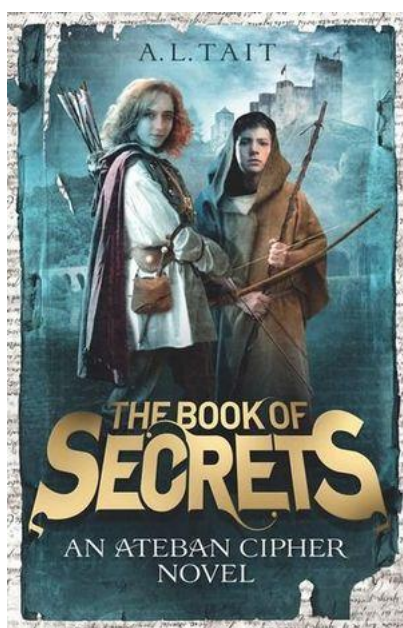
A brilliantly rich and strange fantasy adventure that will make us all believe in monsters be they good, bad or somewhere in between.

It is a well-known fact that fairies are born from a baby's first laugh. What is not as well documented is how monsters come into being

This is the story of a creature who is both strange and unique. When he hatches down in the vast underground lair where monsters dwell, he looks just like a human boy much to the disgust of everyone watching. Even the grumpy gargoyles who adopt him and nickname him 'Imp' only want him to steal chocolate for them from the nearby shops. He's a child with feet in both worlds, and he doesn't know where he fits.

But little does Imp realise that Thunderguts, king of the ogres, has a great and dangerous destiny in mind for him, and he'll stop at nothing to see it come to pass –

The Book of Secrets – A. L. Tait

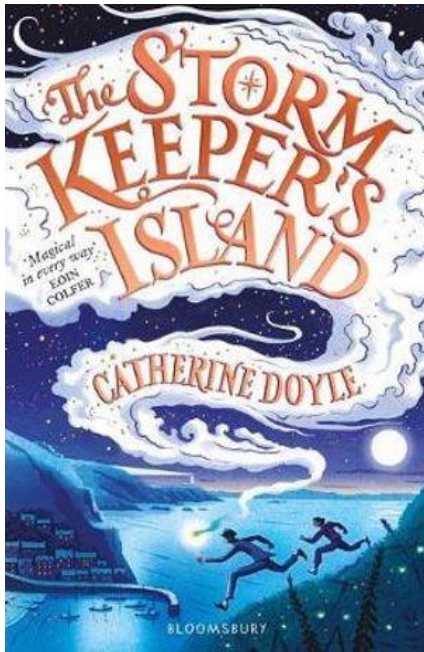


What's the secret of the book, and why is it so valuable? These are the questions Gabe must answer when a dying man hands him a coded manuscript with one instruction: take it to Aidan. Gabe is hurled into a quest that takes him beyond his monastery home and into a world of danger, political intrigue and adventure.

As he seeks to decipher the code and find a mystery man who may not even exist, Gabe learns that survival must be earned and that some of life's biggest lessons are not found in books.

Gabe finds himself questioning everything he knows about right and wrong and wondering if he'll ever find a way back home. He also discovers that the biggest secret of all may be his own.

The Storm Keeper's Island – Catherine Doyle

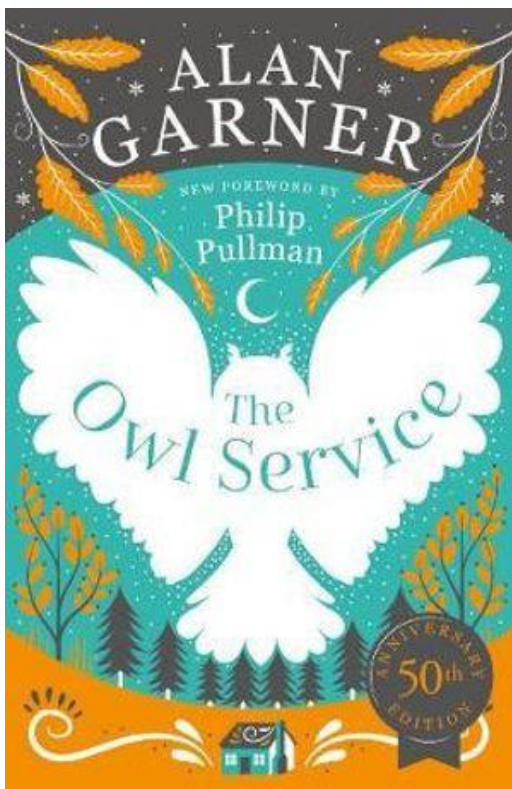


When Fionn Boyle sets foot on Arranmore Island, it begins to stir beneath his feet ...

Once in a generation, Arranmore Island chooses a new Storm Keeper to wield its power and keep its magic safe from enemies. The time has come for Fionn's grandfather, a secretive and eccentric old man, to step down. Soon, a new Keeper will rise.

But, deep underground, someone has been waiting for Fionn. As the battle to become the island's next champion rages, a more sinister magic is waking up, intent on rekindling an ancient war.

The Owl Service – Alan Garner

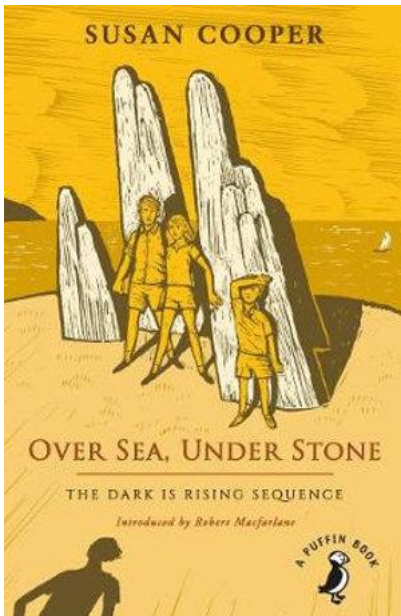


A 50th Anniversary Edition featuring a new introduction by Philip Pullman, *The Owl Service* is an all-time classic, combining mystery, adventure, history and a complex set of human relationships.

It all begins with the scratching in the ceiling. From the moment Alison discovers the dinner service in the attic, with its curious pattern of floral owls, a chain of events is set in progress that is to effect everybody's lives.

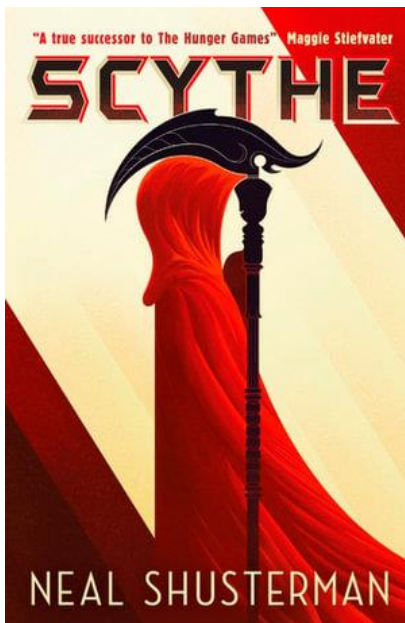
Relentlessly, Alison, her step-brother Roger and Welsh boy Gwyn are drawn into the replay of a tragic Welsh legend - a modern drama played out against a background of ancient jealousies. As the tension mounts, it becomes apparent that only by accepting and facing the situation can it be resolved.

Over Sea, Under Stone – Susan Cooper



On holiday in Cornwall, Simon, Jane and Barney Drew discover an ancient map in the attic of the Grey House, where they are staying with their mysterious Great-Uncle Merry. They know immediately that it is special. But it is much more than just a map. It is the start of a quest to find a grail, a source of great power that could contain - or resurrect - the powerful, age-old forces of evil in the world. And the Drews are not the only ones searching for it.

Scythe – Neal Shusterman

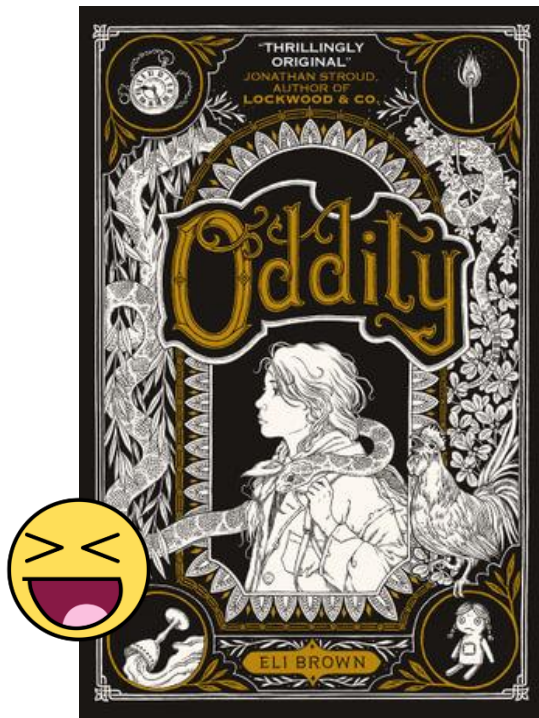


In a perfect world, what is there left to fear? A chilling and thought-provoking sci-fi novel from *New York Times* bestselling author Neal Shusterman.

A dark, gripping and witty thriller in which the only thing humanity has control over is death. In a world where disease, war and crime have been eliminated, the only way to die is to be randomly killed ("gleaned") by professional scythes. Citra and Rowan are teenagers who have been selected to be scythes' apprentices, and despite wanting nothing to do with the vocation, they must learn the art of killing and understand the necessity of what they do. Only one of them will be chosen as a

scythe's apprentice and as Citra and Rowan come up against a terrifyingly corrupt Scythedom, it becomes clear that the winning apprentice's first task will be to glean the loser.

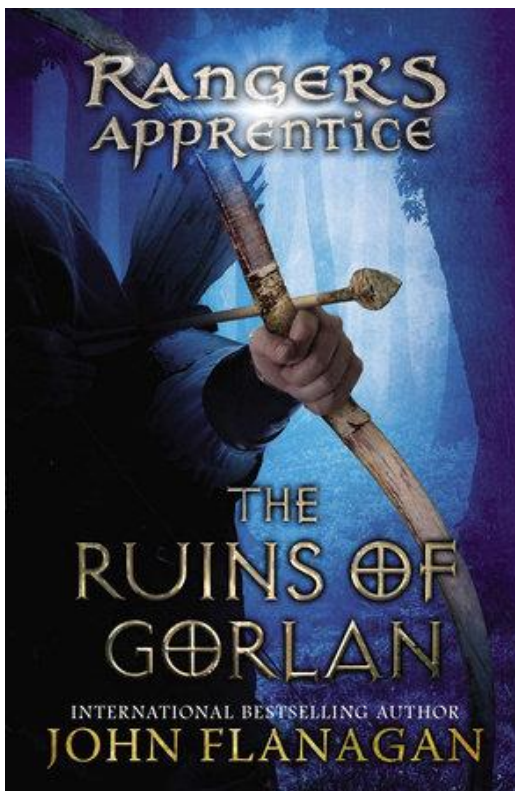
Oddity – Eli Brown



A middle-grade fantasy adventure powered by a kick-ass wild-west heroine and a collection of magical objects known as Oddities.

The daughter of a murdered physician vows to protect the magical Oddity he left behind – if only she knew what it was – in an alternate nineteenth century in which the United States is at war with Napoleon's France. When her physician father is murdered, thirteen-year-old Clover Elkin embarks on a perilous mission through warring frontier territories to protect the one secret Oddity he left behind. And as she uncovers the truth about her parents and her past, Clover herself emerges as a powerful agent of history. A rich, startling, funny fantasy adventure, powered by an irresistible force-of-nature heroine; Clover Elkin is a born fighter – a heroine to rival Lyra Belacqua or *True Grit*'s Mattie Ross.

The Ruins of Gorlan – John Flanagan



Will is small for his age, but agile and energetic. All his life, he has dreamed of becoming a great knight like the father he never knew, so he is devastated when he is rejected as an apprentice to Castle Redmont's Battleschool. Instead he is apprenticed to Halt, the mysterious Ranger whose uncanny ability to move unseen is thought to be the result of black magic.

Reluctantly, Will learns to use a Ranger's secret weapons: a bow and arrow, a mottled cloak and a stubborn little pony. It may not be the sword and battlehorse he longs for, but when Will and Halt set out on a desperate mission to prevent the assassination of the King, Will finds that a Ranger's weapons are not so useless after all...

Machine Wars - Michael Pryor



The Bourne Identity meets The Terminator in this fast-paced technothriller for readers aged 10 to 14.

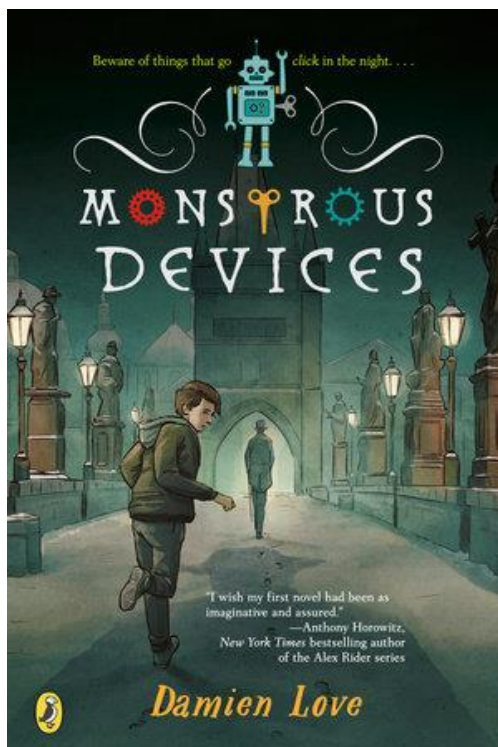
It was only a matter of time until one escaped.

Bram just wasn't expecting it to be today.

In the sky, drones are hunting him. On every corner, machines are waiting to kill him.

But Bram has a plan. First, scatter and hide. Then, with his best friend and wise-cracking roboduck, help to save the world.

Monstrous Devices – Damien Love

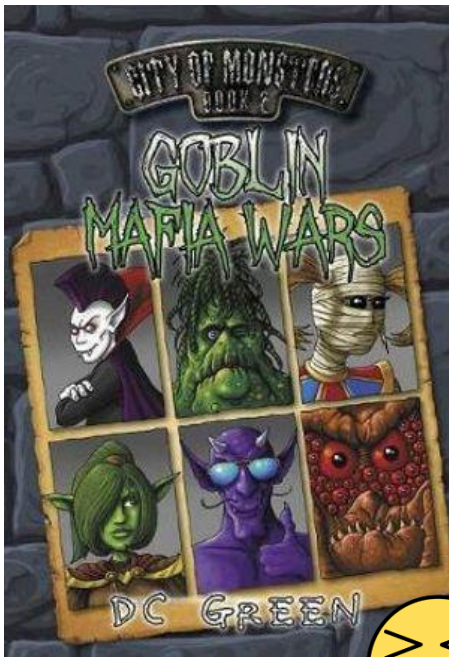


On a winter's day in a British town, twelve-year old Alex receives a package in the mail: an old tin robot from his grandfather. "This one is special," says the enclosed note, and when strange events start occurring around him, Alex suspects this small toy is more than special; it might be deadly.

Right as things get out of hand, Alex's grandfather arrives, pulling him away from an attack—and his otherwise humdrum world of friends, bullies, and homework—and into the macabre magic of an ancient family feud. Together, the duo flees across snowy Europe, unraveling the riddle of the little robot while trying to outwit relentless assassins of the human and mechanical kind.

With an ever-present admiration for the hidden mysteries of our world, *Monstrous Devices* plunges readers into a gripping adventure that's sure to surprise.

Goblin Mafia Wars – D. C. Green

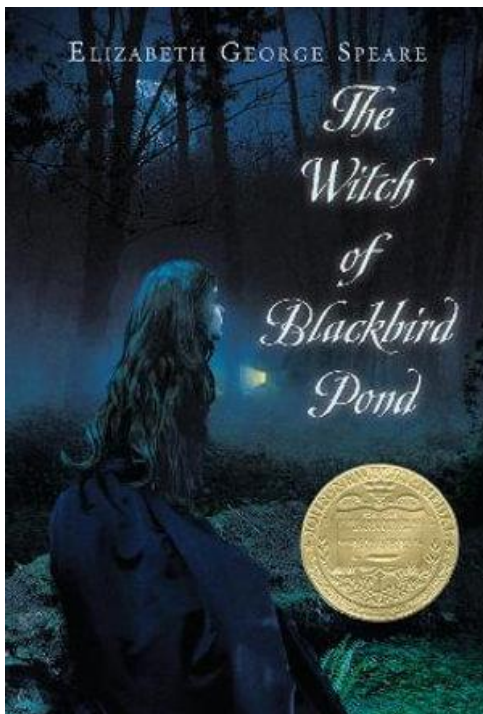


I'm PT, a 16-year-old human king of Monstro City. I suck. Everyone wants me dead – except my Dead Gang monster mates. And our quests have only just begun:

- Escape the Dead Zone (without being eaten)!
- Find the lost eggs of the world's last dragon!
- Prevent a goblin mafia war!
- Oh, and save the world!



The Witch of Blackbird Pond – Elizabeth George Speare



Sixteen-year-old Kit Tyler is marked by suspicion and disapproval from the moment she arrives on the unfamiliar shores of colonial Connecticut in 1687. Alone and desperate, she has been forced to leave her beloved home on the island of Barbados and join a family she has never met. Torn between her quest for belonging and her desire to be true to herself, Kit struggles to survive in a hostile place. Just when it seems she must give up, she finds a kindred spirit. But Kit's friendship with Hannah Tupper, believed by the colonists to be a witch, proves more taboo than she could have imagined and ultimately forces Kit to choose between her heart and her duty.

Elizabeth George Speare won the 1959 Newbery Medal for this portrayal of a heroine whom readers will admire for her unwavering sense of truth as well as her infinite capacity to love.

Australian Identity

The Fighting Stingrays- Simon Mitchell



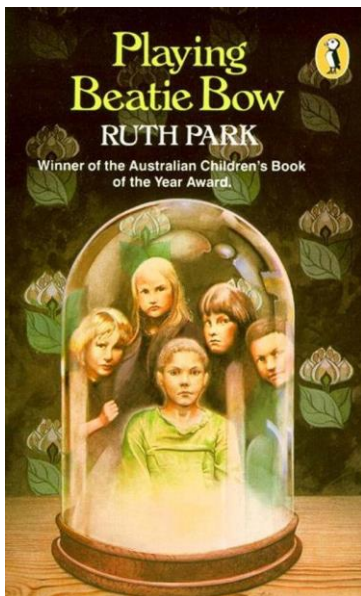
Winner of the Young People's History Prize at the NSW Premier's History Awards

Charlie, Masa and Alf are best mates – loyal and adventurous. They're the Fighting Stingrays.

In between school, swimming and fishing on idyllic Thursday Island, they have a ripper time role-playing bombing missions and other war games. But when Japan enters World War II, the Fighting Stingrays are told that one of their own is now the real-life enemy.

Drawn into a dangerous game of cat and mouse in the Torres Strait, their friendship and loyalties are tested as the threat of invasion looms closer.

Playing Beatie Bow – Ruth Park

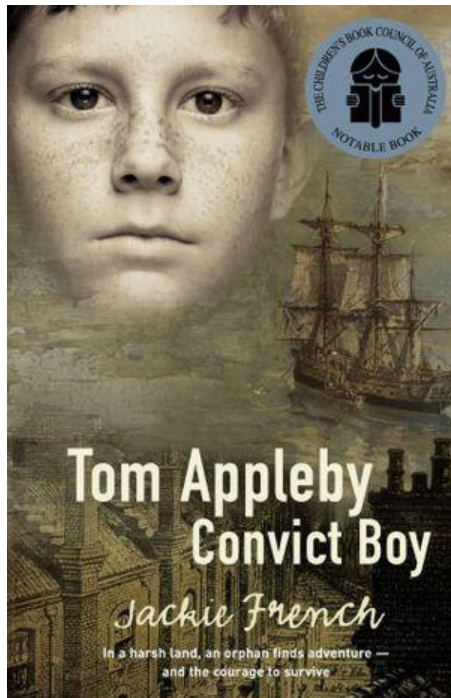


A thrilling adventure story for children and young adults by Ruth Park, *Playing Beatie Bow* follows Abigail as she is swept back to the Sydney of a hundred years ago by a scary game.

Distraught over her parents' separation, Abigail follows a strange child called Beatie Bow and time slips back a hundred years where she becomes involved with an Australian shopkeeper's family.

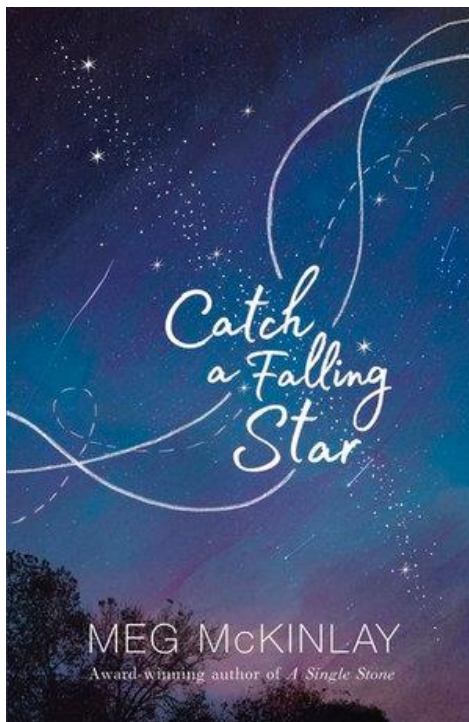
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Tom Appleby, Convict Boy – Jackie French



At the tender age of eight, chimney sweep Tom Appleby is convicted of stealing and sentenced to deportation to Botany Bay. As one of the members of the First Fleet, he arrives in a country that seemingly has little to offer - or little that the English are used to, anyway.

Catch a Falling Star – Meg McKinlay



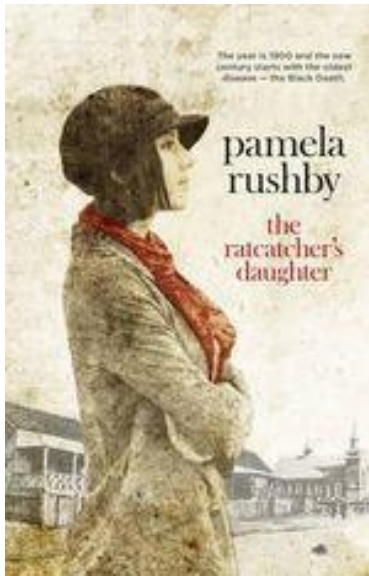
This coming-of-age story by multiple-award-winner Meg McKinlay is about loss and grief, dealing with change and fighting to hold on to what you can, while letting go of what you can't.

It's 1979 and the sky is falling. Skylab, that is. Somewhere high above Frankie Avery, one of the world's first space stations is tumbling to Earth. And rushing back with it are old memories. Things twelve-year-old Frankie thought she'd forgotten. Things her mum won't talk about, and which her little brother Newt never knew.

Only ... did he? Does he? Because as Skylab circles closer, Newt starts acting strangely. And while the world watches the sky, Frankie keeps her own eyes on Newt. Because if anyone's going to keep him safe, it's her. It always has been. But maybe this is something bigger than splinters and spiders and sleepwalking. Maybe a space station isn't the only thing heading straight for calamity.

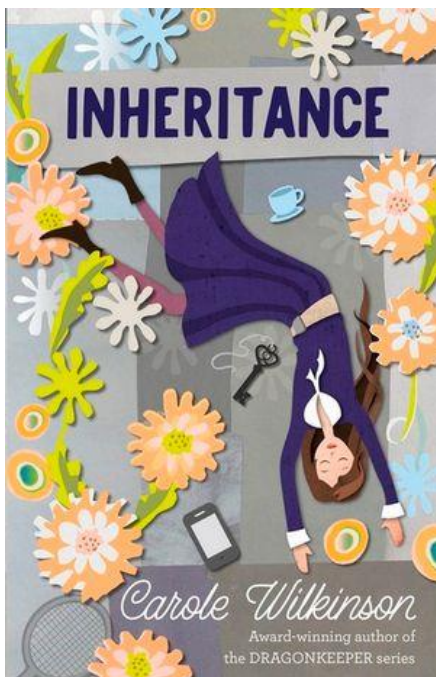
Based on an international media event, this is a story that straddles the intersection between science and belief, between logic and magical thinking. Will appeal to fans of *Raymie Nightingale* by Kate DiCamillo and *Plenty* by Ananda Braxton-Smith.

The Ratcatcher's Daughter – Pamela Rushby



It's 1900. Thirteen-year-old Issy McKelvie leaves school and starts her first job - very reluctantly - as a maid in an undertaking establishment. She thinks this is about as low as you can go. But there's worse to come. Issy becomes an unwilling rat-catcher when the plague - the Black Death - arrives in Australia. Issy loathes both rats and her father's four yappy, snappy, hyperactive rat-killing terriers. But when her father becomes ill it's up to Issy to join the battle to rid the city of the plague-carrying rats.

Inheritance – Carole Wilkinson



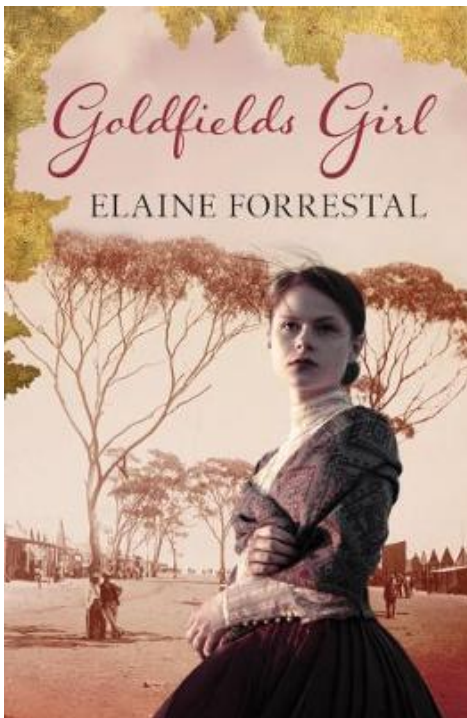
Historical fiction for middle grade readers at its compelling, shocking, fascinating best.

Nic is left in the care of her grandfather at the remote family property that was once her mother's childhood home; a place with thirty rooms, three dogs and no mobile reception. Left to her own devices, she searches for clues about her mother – who died the day Nic was born. But when Nic learns how to slip through time, she discovers more than she could have imagined. The past holds a dark and shocking secret that haunts the land and the people who live there.

Book Features:

- Compelling, shocking and based on true events, this is historical fiction at its best.
- Bestselling and award-winning author Carole Wilkinson has written a gripping novel for young readers.
- This confronting novel deals with an area of great significance to Aboriginal people.

Goldfields Girl – Elaine Forrestal

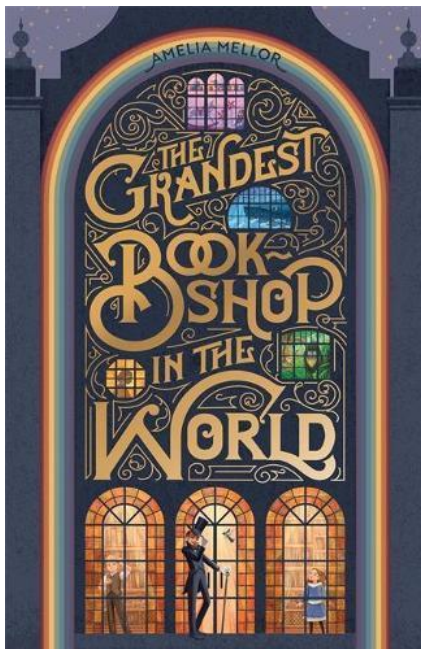


It's 1892. Amid a fevered gold rush, fourteen-year-old Clara Saunders is in search of adventure in the new outback town of Coolgardie.

A friendship with cheeky young water carter Jack is a promising start, but the goldfields are a harsh place, where water is scarce, disease is common and where many men will never find the fortune they've come to seek.

With unforeseen tragedies on the horizon, Clara's time in the dusty town will truly test the limits of her fierceness and determination.

The Grandest Bookshop in the World – Amelia Mellor

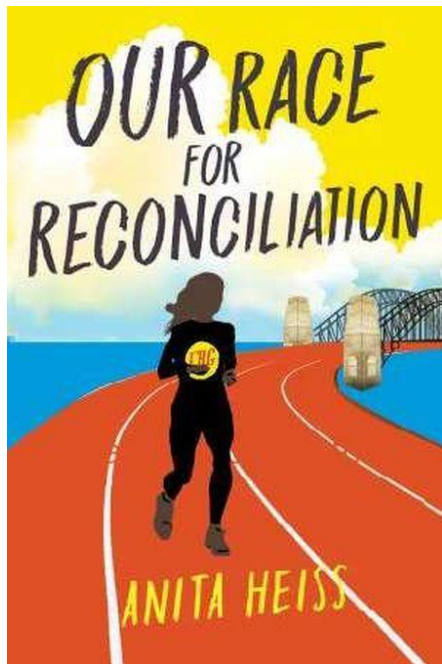


Pearl and Vally Cole live in a bookshop. And not just any bookshop. In 1893, Cole's Book Arcade in Melbourne is the grandest bookshop in the world, brimming with every curiosity imaginable. Each day brings fresh delights for the siblings: voice-changing sweets, talking parrots, a new story written just for them by their eccentric father.

When Pearl and Vally learn that Pa has risked the Arcade – and himself – in a shocking deal with the mysterious Obscurosmith, the siblings hatch a plan. Soon they are swept into a dangerous game with impossibly high stakes: defeat seven challenges by the stroke of midnight and both the Arcade and their father will be restored. But if they fail Pearl and Vally won't just lose Pa - they'll

forget that he and the Arcade ever existed.

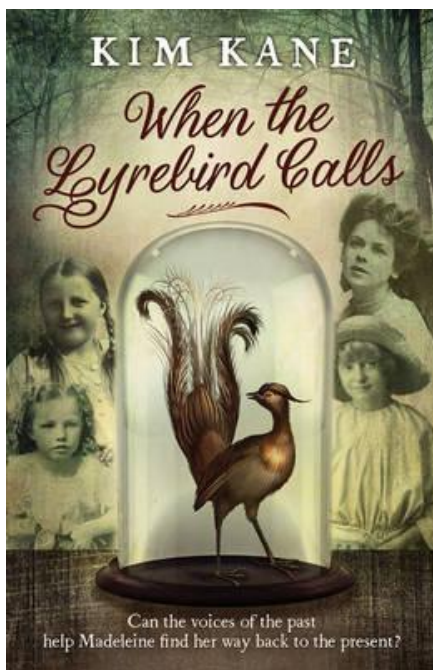
My Australian Story: Our Race for Reconciliation – Anita Heiss



Mel Gordon loves running, and watching Seinfeld, but mostly she loves Cathy Freeman. It's 2000 and the Olympics are going to be held in Australia. In a year of surprises, Mel finds out that Cathy Freeman is coming to talk to her school. And her family is heading to Sydney!

It becomes an unforgettable journey to Corroboree 2000, bringing together all Australians as they march and sing and celebrate Australia's Indigenous heritage and also acknowledge past wrongs.

When the Lyrebird Calls - Kim Kane

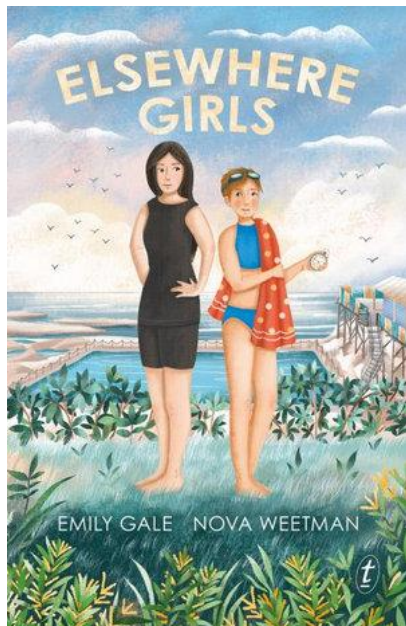


When Madeleine is shipped off to stay with her eccentric grandmother for the holidays, she expects the usual: politics, early-morning yoga, extreme health food, and lots of hard work. Instead, Madeleine tumbles back in time to 1900, where the wealthy Williamson family takes her into their home, Lyrebird Muse...

At a time when young girls have no power and no voice, set against a backdrop of the struggles for emancipation, federation and Aboriginal rights, Madeleine must find a way to fit in with the Williamson family's four sisters - beautiful, cold Bea; clever, awkward Gert; adventurous, rebellious Charlie; and darling baby Imo - as she searches desperately for a way home...

Meanwhile, the Williamson girls' enchanting German cousin, Elfriede, arrives on the scene on a heavenly wave of smoke and cinnamon, and threatens to shatter everything...

Elsewhere Girls – Nova Weetman/Emily Gale



It's midnight and I'm alone in the kitchen eating a cold potato scallop. Coach O'Call would say something like, 'That's not what I expect from a scholarship girl!' because I have to be up for squad training in five hours and I'm not supposed to go near potato scallops, and-oh, yeah-it's my fifth.

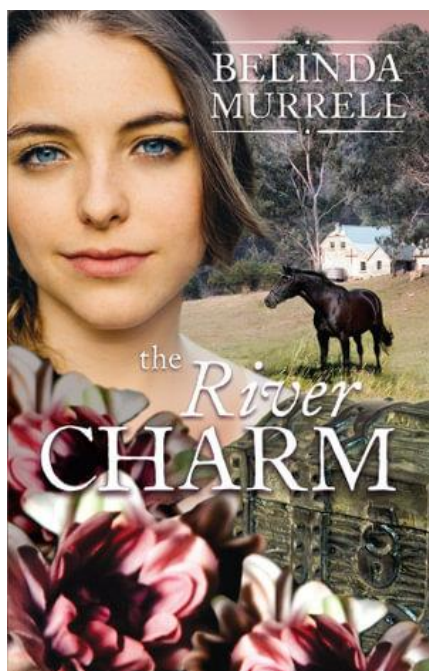
Cat has recently started at a new school on a sports scholarship, and she's feeling the pressure of early morning training sessions and the need for total commitment. Fanny loves to swim and she lives for racing, but family chores and low expectations for girls make it very hard for her to fit in even the occasional training session.

Cat and Fanny have never met. They both live in the same Sydney suburb, but in different worlds, or at least different times- Cat in current-day Sydney, and Fanny in 1908. But one day, time slips and they swap places.

As each girl lives the other's life, with all the challenges and confusion it presents, she comes to appreciate and understand herself and the role of swimming in her own life.

Narrated in alternating chapters by Cat and Fanny, *Elsewhere Girls* is a moving and funny story of two girls with a deep connection, one based on the Australian Olympic champion, Fanny Durack. It's a fresh and engaging exploration of the challenges and pressures for young women growing up in the past and today.

The River Charm – Belinda Murrell



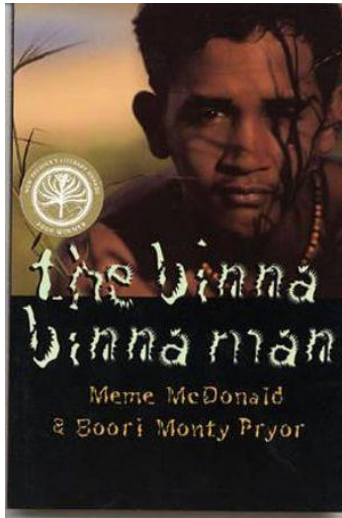
'Could I be anything I want to be? What do I want to be? Maybe just . . . brave?'

Could the ghost girl Millie has painted be her own ancestor? The river pebble charm has an astonishing story to tell . . .

In 1839, Charlotte Atkinson lives on a grand estate with her mamma and her sisters and brother. But after her father dies, things go terribly wrong – murderous convicts, marauding bushrangers and a cruel new stepfather. The family flees on horseback to a hut in the wilderness. They must fight to save their property, their independence and even their right to stay together. Will they ever return to their beautiful home?

Based on the incredible true-life battles of Belinda Murrell's own ancestors, the Atkinsons of Oldbury.

The Binna-Burra Man – Meme MacDonald and Boori Pryor



The powerful story of an Aboriginal teenage boy who is caught between the attractions of city life and the ways of his people. After a terrifying encounter with the Binna Binna man he knows what he must do in order to be true to himself.

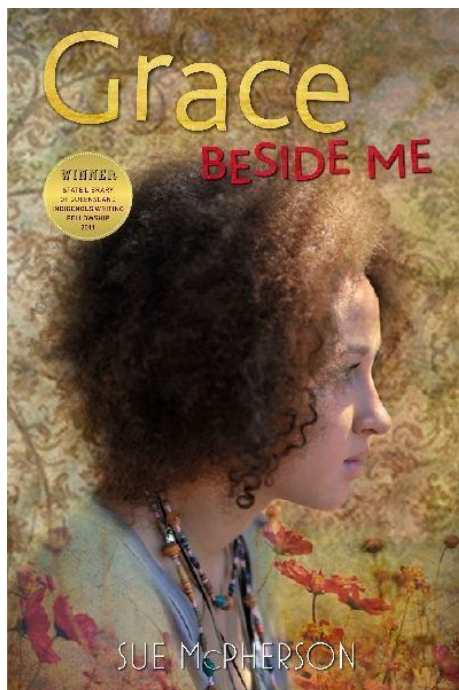
'The Binna Binna man is a big fulla and he stinks like a goat. He can be good and heal you, but if you poke fun at him then you can get into big trouble, like die.'

In Binna Binna country you should watch where you go, even on a night when life is so stuffed up that nothing matters any more. You go wandering too far and you might come face to face with your worst nightmare - the

Binna Binna man.

Filled with laughter and affection, this is the powerful story of a boy who is learning that if you forget where you come from you get weak. That to stay strong you must listen to the old people with your eyes and your ears - and your heart. A companion to *My Girragundji*.

Grace Beside Me – Sue McPherson



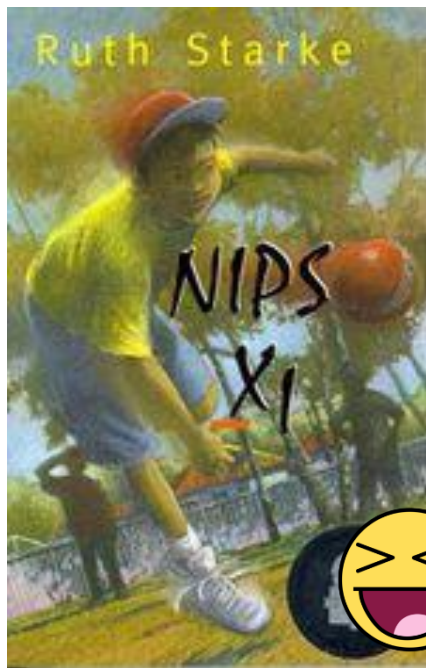
Written from teenager girl Fuzzy Mac's perspective, *Grace Beside Me* is a quirky, warmly rendered story of home and family life in a small town.

The black&write! judges remarked on the authentic feel of the Indigenous home life of Fuzzy Mac and her grandparents - her guardians since the death of her mother. Awkward episodes of teen rivalry and romance sit happily alongside the mystery of Gran's visions and an encounter with a ghost. The story sits against a backdrop of amazing characters including the holocaust survivor who went to school with Einstein; the sleazy, once-good-looking Mayor; the little priest always rushing off to bury someone before the heat gets to them; the wife basher up the road; Lola's Forest, dedicated to Lola, a traditional Aboriginal woman who met Ned Kelly - and Nan and Pop.

Grace Beside Me interweaves the mundane with the profound and the spiritual - it is full of wisdom and good advice (Fuzzy calls Nan 'the queen of all knowing') on

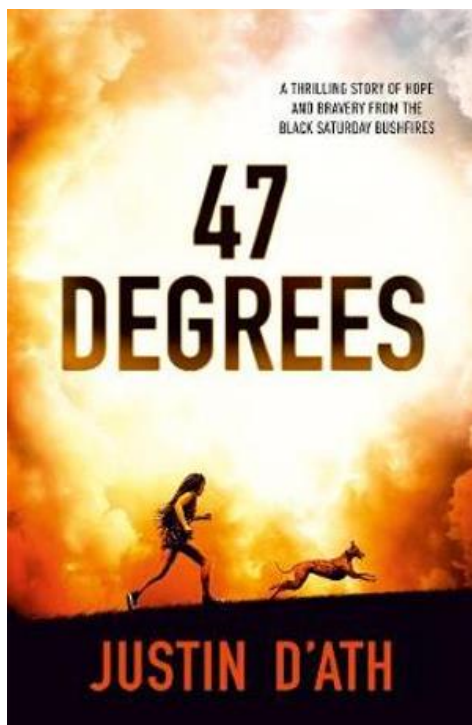
everything from how to 'sit a while' in the bush and connect with country to how to properly hang out the washing.

Nips XI – Ruth Starke



A funny, empowering story of cricket and curry, spinners and leggies, NIPS XI is about overcoming cultural barriers, in sport and in life. If white boys can't jump, can Asian boys play cricket? Vietnamese-born Tran is fed up with being called 'nip' and sick of being on the sidelines. Tran and fellow talent-sptter, Izram, decide to comb their suburb for players. After hilarious elimination trials, Nip's Eleven is born!

47 Degrees – Justin d'Ath



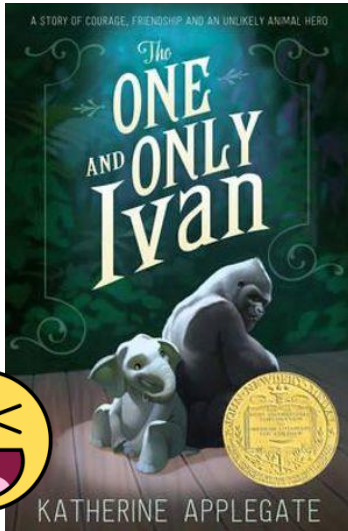
Zeelie wonders if they're in danger.

When temperatures soar to 47 degrees one hot summer day, 12-year-old Zeelie hopes the nearby bushfires everyone's talking about aren't heading towards her family's new home. What will they do if the wind changes direction? What about their belongings and their beloved pets? And why hasn't her mum and brother returned from Melbourne?

Nothing can prepare Zeelie for what's to come.

Animals

The One and Only Ivan – Katherine Applegate



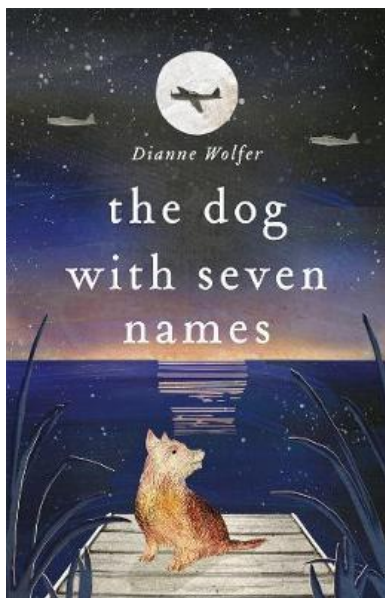
Ivan is an easy-going gorilla. Living at the Exit 8 Big Top Mall and Video Arcade, he has grown accustomed to humans watching him through the glass walls of his domain. He rarely misses his life in the jungle. In fact, he hardly ever thinks about it at all.

Instead, Ivan thinks about tv shows he's seen, and his friends Stella, an elderly elephant, and Bob, a stray dog. But mostly Ivan thinks about art and how to capture the taste of a mango or the sound of leaves with color and a well-placed line.

Then he meets Ruby, a baby elephant taken from her family, and she makes Ivan see their home-and his own art-through new eyes. When Ruby arrives, change comes with her, and it's up to Ivan to make it a change for the better.

Katherine Applegate blends humor and poignancy to create Ivan's unforgettable first person narration in a story of friendship, art, and hope.

The Dog with Seven Names – Dianne Wolfer

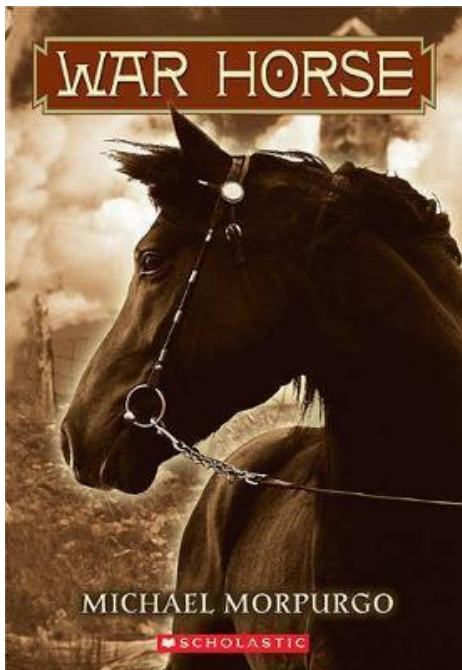


A tiny dog, the runt of the litter, is born on a remote cattle station. She shouldn't have survived, but when Elsie finds, names and loves her, the pup becomes a cherished companion. Life is perfect ... until War arrives.

With Japanese air raids moving closer, Elsie's family leaves the Pilbara for the south and safety. But the small dog has to stay behind. After travelling far from home with drovers and a flying doctor, she becomes a hospital dog and experiences the impact of war on north-western Australia. She witnesses wonderful and terrible things and gives courage to many different humans.

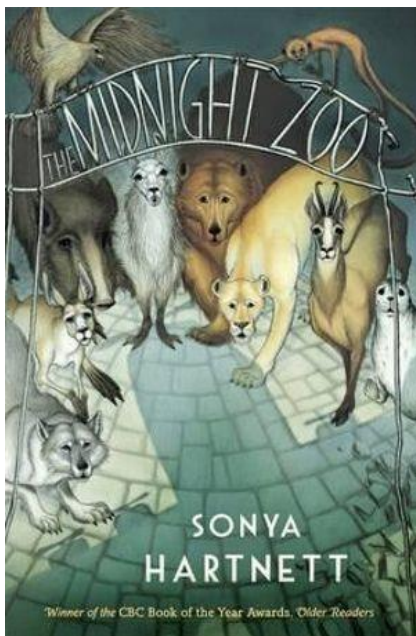
But through all her adventures and many names, the little dog remembers Elsie, who girl who loved her best of all. Will she ever find her again?

War Horse – Michael Morpurgo



An unforgettable tale of war, redemption, and a hero's journey. It is 1914, and Joey, a farm horse, is sold to the army and thrust into the midst of World War I on the Western Front. When Joey is dragged away, his heart aches for Albert, the farmer's son he is forced to leave behind. In the army the beautiful red-bay horse is trained to charge the enemy, drag heavy artillery, and carry wounded soldiers not much older than Albert off the battlefields. Amongst the clamoring of guns, and while plodding through the cold mud, Joey wonders if the war will ever end. And if it does, will he ever find Albert again?

The Midnight Zoo – Sonya Hartnett

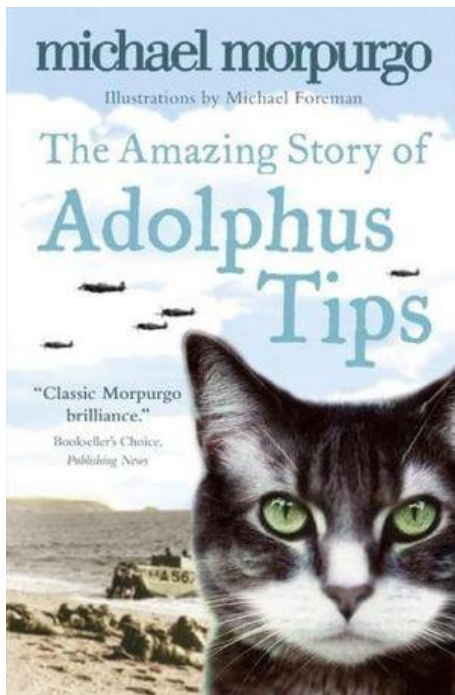


Her muzzle wrinkled, and Andrej saw a glimpse of teeth and pale tongue. 'They smell the same,' the lioness murmured. 'My cubs smelt as she does. Like pollen.' She breathed deeply again, and Andrej saw the missing cubs returning to her on the wings of the baby's perfume. 'All young ones must come from the same place,' she said: then sat down on her haunches, seemingly satisfied.

Under cover of darkness, two brothers cross a war-ravaged countryside carrying a secret bundle. One night they stumble across a deserted town reduced to smouldering ruins. But at the end of a blackened street they find a small green miracle: a zoo filled with animals in need of hope.

A moving and ageless fable about war, and freedom.

The Amazing Story of Adolphus Tips – Michael Morpurgo



"Something's up. Something big too, very big. At school, in the village, whoever you meet, it's all anyone talks about. It's like a sudden curse has come down on us all. It makes me wonder if we'll ever see the sun again."

It's 1943, and Lily Tregenze lives on a farm, in the idyllic seaside village of Slapton. Apart from her father being away, and the 'townie' evacuees at school, her life is scarcely touched by the war. Until one day, Lily and her family, along with 3000 other villagers, are told to move out of their homes – lock, stock and barrel.

Soon, the whole area is out of bounds, as the Allied forces practise their landings for D-day, preparing to invade France. But Tips, Lily's adored cat, has other ideas – barbed wire and keep-out signs mean nothing to her, nor does the danger of guns and bombs. Frantic to find her, Lily makes friends with two young American soldiers, who promise to help her. But will she ever see her cat again? Lily decides to cross the wire into the danger zone to look for Tips herself...

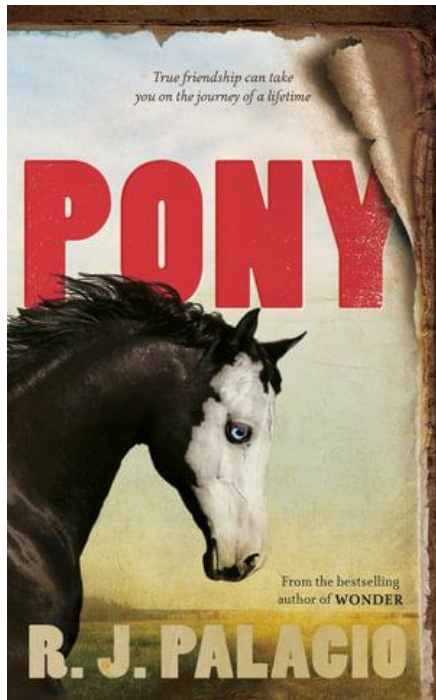
Now, many years later, as Michael is reading his Grandma Lily's diary, he learns about The Amazing Story of Adolphus Tips – and wonders how one adventurous cat could still affect their lives sixty years later.

Pax – Sara Pennypacker



The moving story of the extraordinary friendship between a boy and his fox and their epic journey to be reunited. Beautifully illustrated by multi-award winner, Jon Klassen. Now available in Paperback! Pax was only a kit when his family was killed and he was rescued by 'his boy', Peter. Now the country is at war and when his father enlists, Peter has no choice but to move in with his grandfather. Far worse than leaving home is the fact that he has to leave Pax behind. But before Peter spends even one night under his grandfather's roof he sneaks out into the night, determined to find his beloved friend. This is the story of Peter, Pax, and their journeys back to each other as war rampages throughout the country.

Pony – R. J. Palacio



When Silas Bird wakes in the dead of night, he watches powerlessly as three strangers take his father away. Silas is left shaken, scared and alone, except for the presence of his companion, Mittenwool . . . who happens to be a ghost. But then a mysterious pony shows up at his door, and Silas knows what he has to do. So begins a perilous journey to find his father - a journey that will connect him with his past, his future, and the unknowable world around him.

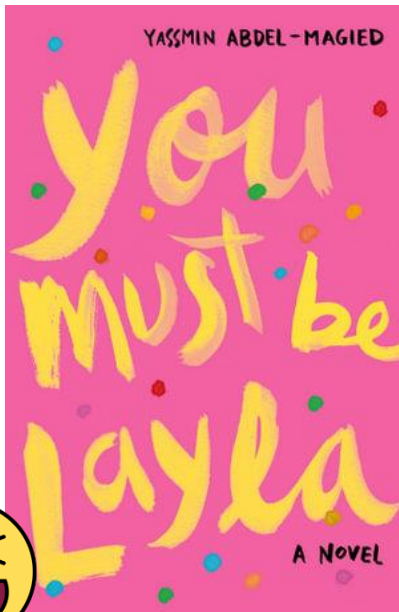
White Fang – Jack London



Born in the wilds of the freezing cold Yukon, White Fang - half-dog, half-wolf - is the only animal in the litter to survive. He soon learns the harsh laws of nature, yet buried deep inside him are the distant memories of affection and love. Will this fiercely independent creature of the wild learn to trust man again?

Diaspora

You Must Be Layla – Yassmin Abdel-Magied



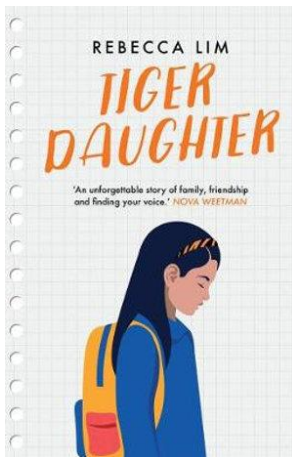
With her long skirt and headscarf Layla certainly stands out at her new high school. Everyone thinks they know her, just from a glance. But do they? And does Layla really know herself?

Layla's mind goes a million miles a minute, so does her mouth - unfortunately her better judgement can take a while to catch up! Although she believes she was justified for doing what she did, a suspension certainly isn't the way she would have wished to begin her time at her fancy new high school. Despite the setback, Layla's determined to show everyone that she does deserve her scholarship and sets her sights on winning a big invention competition. But where to begin?

Looking outside and in, Layla will need to come to terms with who she is and who she wants to be if she has any chance of succeeding.

Jam-packed with heart and humour *You Must Be Layla* by Yassmin Abdel-Magied reveals a powerful new voice in children's writing. Touching on the migrant experience and exploring thought-provoking themes relevant to all teens, this book shows the strength required to be a Queen with a capital 'Q'.

Tiger Daughter – Rebecca Lim



Wen Zhou is determined to create a future for herself that is more satisfying than the life her parents expect her to lead. Equal parts heartbreaking and hopeful, *Tiger Daughter* is a wonderfully compelling and authentic Own Voices novel about growing up Asian in Australia.

What I feel most days is that nothing is ever going to change. That my life won't even start, and that I'll be stuck like this forever.

Wen Zhou is the daughter and only child of Chinese immigrants whose move to the lucky country has proven to be not so lucky. Wen and her friend, Henry Xiao - whose mum and dad are also struggling immigrants - both dream of escape from their unhappy circumstances, and form a plan to sit an entrance exam to a selective high school far from home. But when tragedy strikes, it will take all of Wen's resilience and resourcefulness to get herself and Henry through the storm that follows.

Tiger Daughter is a novel that will grab hold of you and not let go

Half my Luck – Sameera Kamelddine



From the winner of the inaugural Matilda Prize comes a heartwarming coming-of-age story about growing up in Australia when you're caught between two cultures

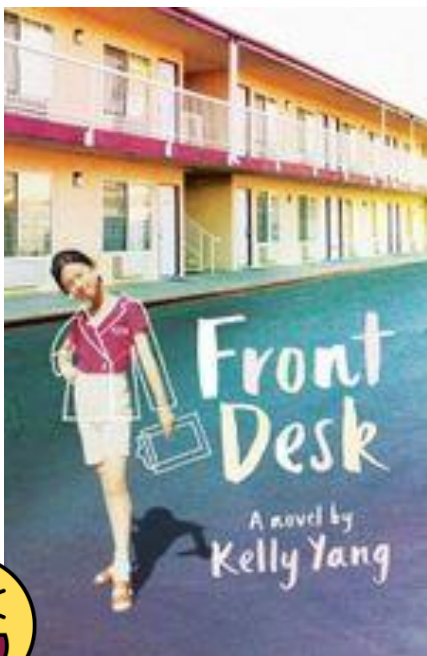
Layla Karimi has been cursed by the evil eye.

Well, that's what Layla's superstitious grandmother tells her. And Layla reckons it makes sense as she's sort of Australian and sort of Lebanese: a 'halfie' who doesn't really fit into either world.

And when all hell breaks loose at the first beach party of the summer, Layla finds herself caught between her friends and the Lebanese kids who call themselves 'the Cedar Army' (of which her cousin Sufia is the Queen Bee). One group has been wrongfully accused and Layla knows the truth that would clear their name.

But will she speak up?

Front Desk – Kelly Yang



An empowering story of empathy, courage, and hope, based on the author's real-life experience immigrating to the US as a child and working at the front desk of the motel where her parents work.

Ten year-old Mia Tang moved to the US for a better life, a freer life, but so far, it's a life where she runs the front desk of a motel while her parents clean rooms. And she's not even allowed to use the swimming pool. Based on author Kelly Yang's real-life experience immigrating to America from China and running a motel with her parents, this novel explores how one little girl overcomes language barriers, discrimination and her own lack of confidence to find her voice – and use it to make a difference. This is a sensitive story of tolerance and diversity that will resonate with readers of all cultures who have experienced the challenges of feeling like an outsider.

- Like *Wonder*, *Because of Winn-Dixie* and *Counting by Sevens*, this is the kind of story that inspires empathy and

has the power to give readers a new perspective.

- This immigration story, based on the author's life experience, will appeal to first-generation Australians, their classmates, and anyone who has ever felt like an outsider.
- An antidote to all of the hate in the news, this book champions a message of kindness.



The Dons – Archimede Fusillo

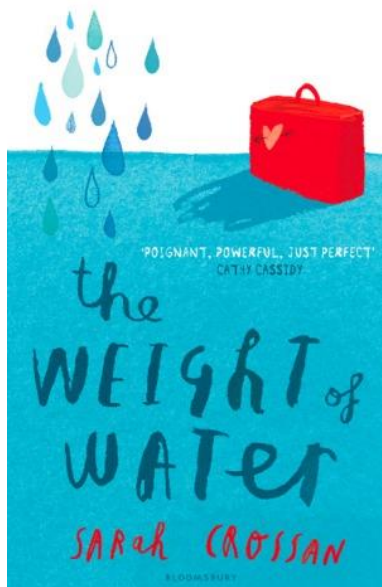
Paul is trying to escape. He's trying to escape from an Italian heritage that just doesn't seem to have relevance for him any more, and he's trying to escape from his nonno. They come from two different worlds, he and his grandfather, and Paul is more interested in his own world - his friends, the girls, the fast cars, the go-carts - than Nonno's strange and embarrassing behaviour.



Nonno is more than just a silly old man getting in the way of Paul's lifestyle, though. Nonno has more stories to tell than Paul can even begin to imagine. But there is one big problem - Nonno is losing his mind.

From the author of the highly successful *Sparring with Shadows* comes an irresistible, inspiring and brilliantly evocative story of family love, loyalty and wisdom

The Weight of Water – Sarah Crossan

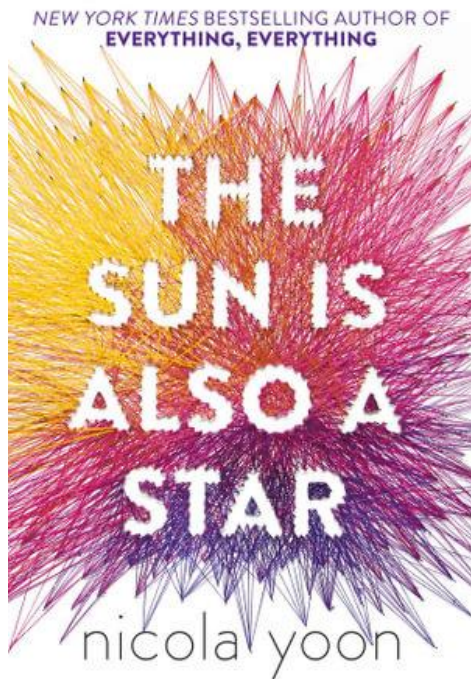


courage prevails

Armed with a suitcase and an old laundry bag filled with clothes, Kasienka and her mother head for England. Life is lonely for Kasienka. At home her mother's heart is breaking and at school friends are scarce. But when someone special swims into her life, Kasienka learns that there might be more than one way for her to stay afloat.

The Weight of Water is a startlingly original piece of fiction. A brilliant coming-of-age story, it also tackles the alienation experienced by many young immigrants. Moving, unsentimental, and utterly page-turning, we meet and share the experiences of a remarkable girl who shows us how quiet

The Sun is Also a Star – Nicola Yoon

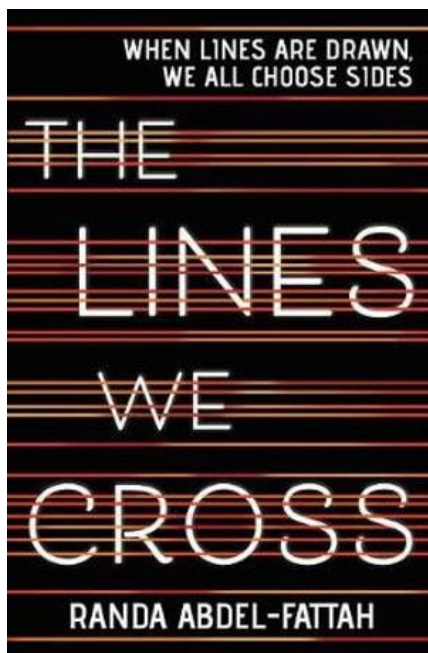


Natasha: I'm a girl who believes in science and facts. Not fate. Not destiny. Or dreams that will never come true. I'm definitely not the kind of girl who meets a cute boy on a crowded New York City street and falls in love with him. Not when my family is twelve hours away from being deported to Jamaica. Falling in love with him won't be my story.

Daniel: I've always been the good son, the good student, living up to my parents' high expectations. Never the poet. Or the dreamer. But when I see her, I forget about all that. Something about Natasha makes me think that fate has something much more extraordinary in store—for both of us.

The Universe: Every moment in our lives has brought us to this single moment. A million futures lie before us. Which one will come true?

The Lines we Cross – Randa Abdel-Fattah



Michael likes to hang out with his friends and play with the latest graphic design software. His parents drag him to rallies held by their anti-immigrant group, which rails against the tide of refugees flooding the country. And it all makes sense to Michael.

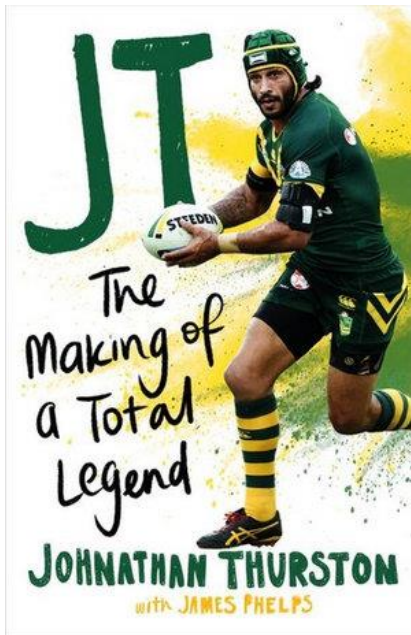
Until Mina, a beautiful girl from the other side of the protest lines, shows up at his school, and turns out to be funny, smart -- and a Muslim refugee from Afghanistan. Suddenly, his parents' politics seem much more complicated.

Mina has had a long and dangerous journey fleeing her besieged home in Afghanistan, and now faces a frigid reception at her new prep school, where she is on scholarship. As tensions

rise, lines are drawn. Michael has to decide where he stands. Mina has to protect herself and her family. Both have to choose what they want their world to look like.

Life Stories

JT: The Making of a Total Legend – Jonathan Thurston with James Phelps

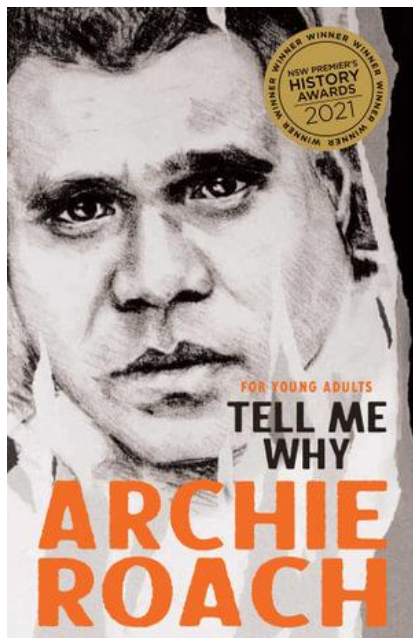


JT. One of the greats, simply the best. He is Johnathan Thurston.

As a young Brisbane kid, Johnathan Thurston was written off as too skinny, too slow and too wild to play rugby league professionally. But he defied the odds to become one of the game's greatest players.

In this young readers' edition of his bestselling autobiography, follow his journey from his debut with the Canterbury Bulldogs in 2003, to State of Origin star, and to total legend of the game.

Tell Me Why – Archie Roach

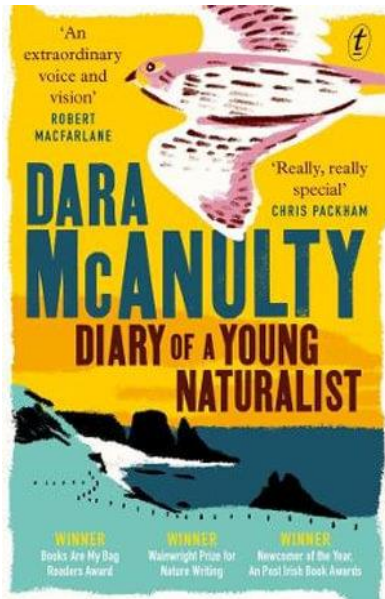


'There are many Australian stories, and mine is just one about what happened to me and other First Peoples of this country. It's important for me to tell my story – because it's not just part of my healing but of this country's as well. We all have a story and as you read this book I would like you to think of your own story, what that means and who is also a part of your story.'

In his inspirational, highly acclaimed memoir – and including reflections from First Nations Elders and young people – Archie Roach tells the story of his life and his music. Only two when he was forcibly removed from his family, and brought up by a series of foster parents until his early teens, Archie's world imploded when he received a letter that spoke of a life he had no memory of. It took him almost a lifetime to find out who he really was.

Tell Me Why is an unforgettable story of resilience, strength of spirit and hope.

Diary of a Young Naturalist – Dara McNulty



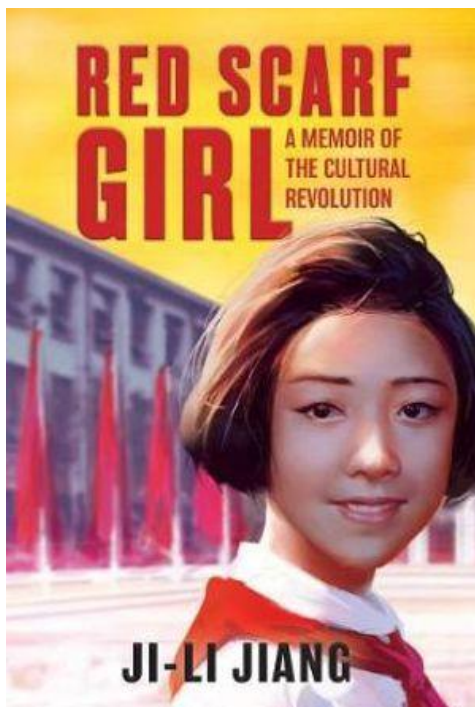
The globally successful, Wainwright Prize-winning memoir by Irish teenager Dara McNulty, now available in paperback format.

Diary of a Young Naturalist chronicles the turning of 15-year-old Dara McNulty's world. From spring and through a year in his home patch in Northern Ireland, Dara spent the seasons writing. These vivid, evocative and moving diary entries about his connection to wildlife and the way he sees the world are raw in their telling.

Diary of a Young Naturalist portrays Dara's intense connection to the natural world, and his perspective as a teenager juggling exams and friendships alongside a life of campaigning. 'In writing this book,' Dara explains, 'I have experienced challenges but also felt incredible joy, wonder, curiosity and excitement. In sharing this journey my hope is

that people of all generations will not only understand autism a little more but also appreciate a child's eye view on our delicate and changing biosphere.'

Red Scarf Girl – Ji-Li Jiang



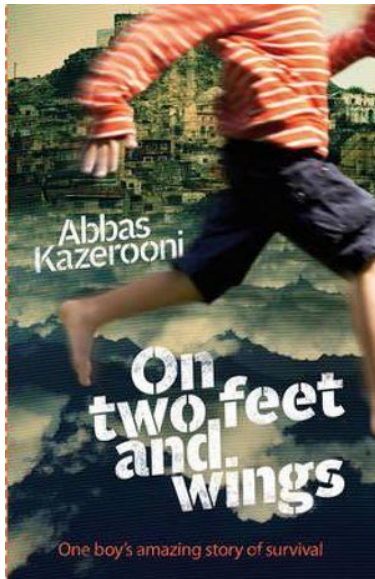
In the tradition of *The Diary of Anne Frank* and *I Am Malala*, this is the incredible true story of one girl's courage and determination during one of the most terrifying eras of the twentieth century.

It's 1966, and twelve-year-old Ji-li Jiang has everything a girl could want: brains, popularity, and a bright future in Communist China. But it's also the year that China's leader, Mao Ze-dong, launches the Cultural Revolution and Ji-li's world begins to fall apart.

Over the next few years, people who were once her friends and neighbors turn on her and her family, forcing them to live in constant terror of arrest. And when Ji-li's father is finally imprisoned, she faces the most difficult dilemma of her life.

Written in an accessible and engaging style, this page-turning, honest, and deeply personal autobiography will appeal to readers of all ages.

On Two Feet and Wings – Abbas Kazerooni



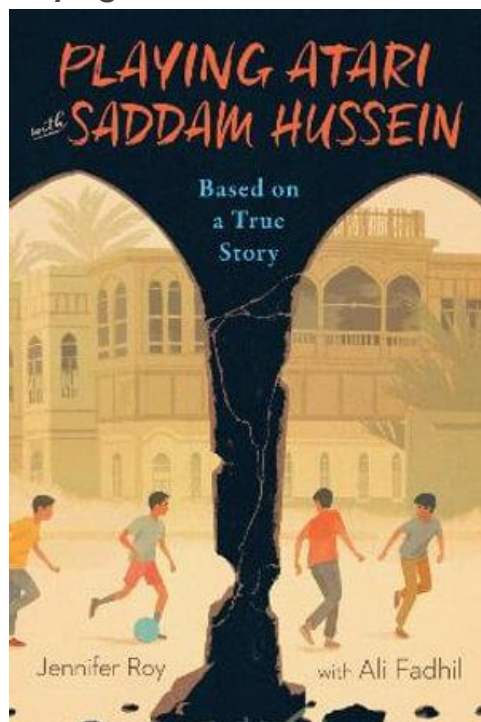
This amazing true story of a boy fleeing Tehran on his own during the Iran-Iraq War provides a powerful child's-eye view of political tumult, separation, survival, dreams and triumphs in a moving memoir that chronicles extraordinary times in an ordinary boy's life.

I was not aware that I was crying until I saw the tears hit my shoes. Even with all the lights at the airport, the night outside looked dark and the air seemed thick. I wiped my eyes and tried to figure out what I could do. I was alone in a foreign land at the age of nine, and I did not speak the language. I was, quite simply, terrified...

Close to his tenth birthday, Abbas has to leave his parents and friends to escape Tehran. The Iran-Iraq War is at its bloodiest. The ayatollahs, the rulers of Iran, have reduced the age of recruitment into the army. If Abbas doesn't leave soon, he will have to go to war.

In the strange and often frightening city of Istanbul, Abbas has to grow up fast. Living alone for twelve weeks in a rundown hotel, he has to learn to live by his wits, and watch his back. Will he ever get his dream visa to England? This page-turning story about the courage of one small boy, based on true events, is as gripping as any novel.

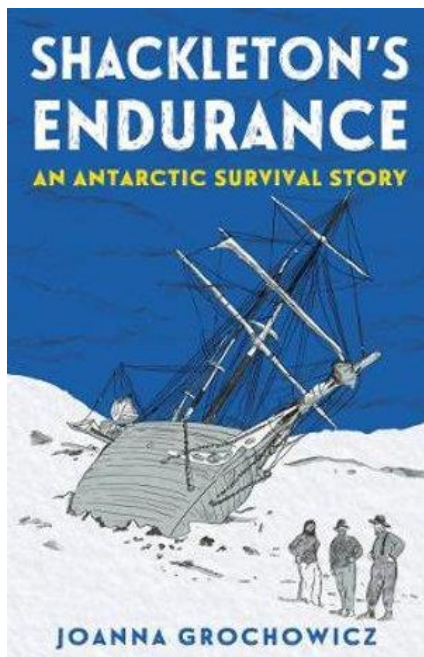
Playing Atari with Saddam Hussein – Jennifer Roy/Ali Fadhil



At the start of 1991, eleven-year-old Ali Fadhil was consumed by his love for soccer, video games, and American television shows. Then, on January 17, Iraq's dictator, Saddam Hussein, went to war with thirty-four nations led by the United States.

Over the next forty-three days, Ali and his family survived bombings, food shortages, and constant fear. Ali and his brothers played soccer on the abandoned streets of their Basra neighborhood, wondering when or if their medic father would return from the war front. Cinematic, accessible, and timely, this is the story of one ordinary kid's view of life during war.

Shackleton's Endurance- Joanna Grochowicz



Ernest Shackleton's remarkable story is a terrifying adventure with the happiest of endings - another brilliant narrative non-fiction Antarctic adventure featuring an explorer who was a true polar hero.

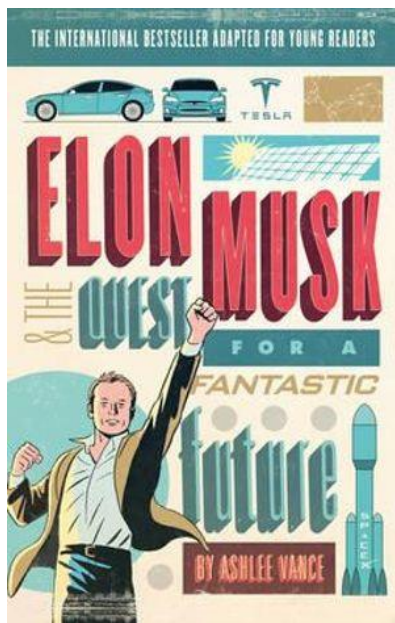
Adrift on the Antarctic pack ice with no means of escape and no hope of rescue, Ernest Shackleton and his men are surely doomed.

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.

To survive, Shackleton and his crew of twenty-seven men must undertake a trial even more extreme than their planned crossing of the frozen continent. Their aim is to make it home against tremendous odds, with only

lifeboats to cross the heavy seas of the South Atlantic - and the life-saving power of Shackleton's extraordinary leadership skills.

Elon Musk & the Quest for a Fantastic Future – Ashlee Vance

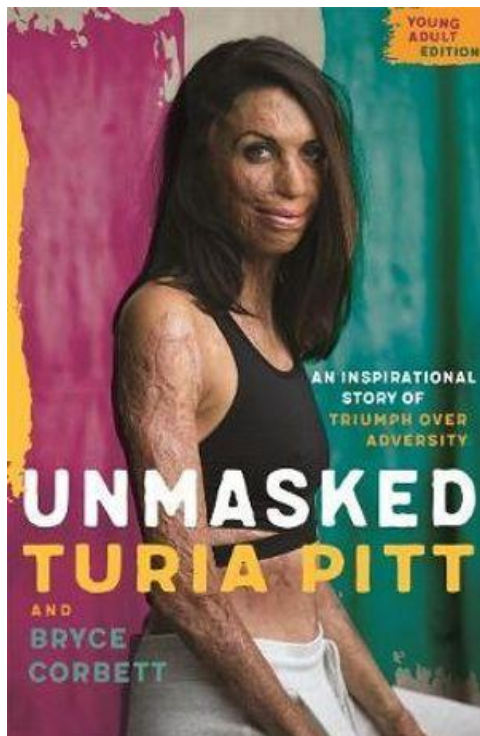


Elon Musk is an inspirational role model for young entrepreneurs, breaking boundaries and revolutionising the tech-world. He is also the real-life inspiration for the *Iron Man* series of films, starring Robert Downey Junior. From his humble beginnings in apartheid South Africa, he showed himself to be an exceptionally bright child, and overcame brutal bullying to become the world's most exciting entrepreneur, founding PayPal, SpaceX, Tesla and Solar City.

He has emerged as something of a superhero-like figure for today's generation of children. He's not only seen as an entrepreneur in the spirit of a Steve Jobs but as an inventor and bold thinker. He's the guy offering children the possibility of a brighter, more exciting future and has come to

symbolize innovation and optimism.

Unmasked – Turia Pitt

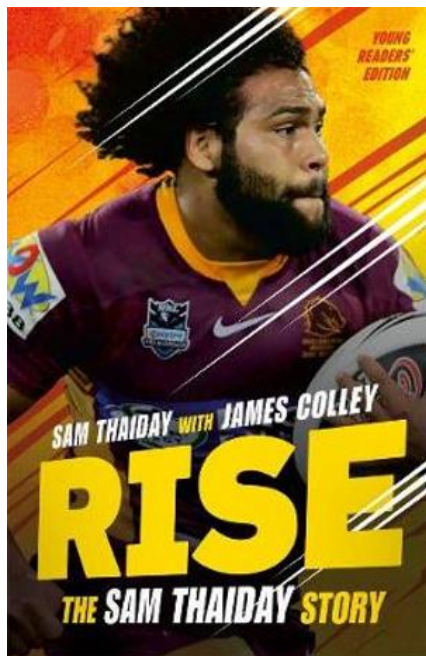


A young adult edition of Turia Pitt's bestselling book *Unmasked* that is unflinchingly honest and completely inspirational.

Telling the story of Turia's life before and after the fire, this young readers' book unmask the real Turia: funny, fierce, intelligent, flawed. With a new foreword from Turia, additional content and a new Q&A section, this edition covers topics such as confidence, goal-setting, family and friends and happiness that will resonate strongly with tweens and teens.

Unmasked reveals the woman behind the headlines, and in so doing, uncovers the grace, humour and inner-steel that gets Turia Pitt through every day – and which leaves the rest of us watching on in amazement.

Rise: the Sam Thaiday story - Sam Thaiday/James Colley

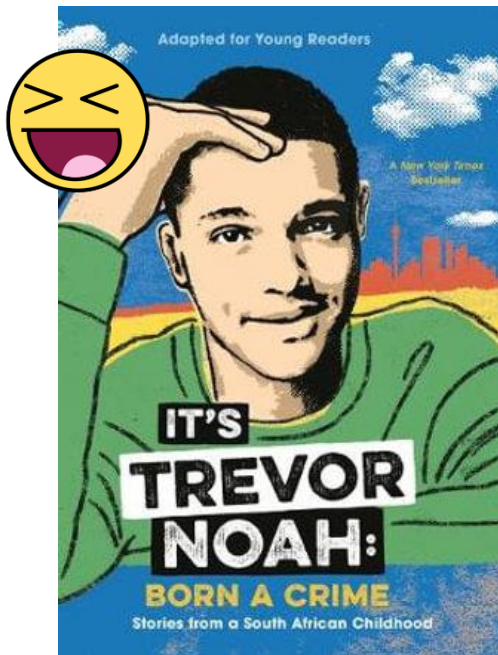


For sixteen years, Sam Thaiday has entertained Brisbane Broncos, Queensland State of Origin and Australian fans both on and off the field. He's one of rugby league's most highly regarded and respected players and this book tells his story.

With his trademark humour and honesty, Sam reveals his roots as Townsville boy and a die-hard Cowboys fan, his family connections to the Torres Strait, how it was his mum who taught him to pass and tackle, and all the ups and downs of the game he loves.

With advice for setting and reaching goals, handling setbacks and finding the things that matter to you in life, *Rise- The Sam Thaiday story* is a must-read for any young league fan, regardless of who they barrack for!

It's Trevor Noah: Born a Crime – Trevor Noah



The host of *The Daily Show*, Trevor Noah, shares his personal story and the injustices he faced while growing up half black, half white in South Africa under and after apartheid in this *New York Times* bestselling young readers' adaptation of his adult memoir.

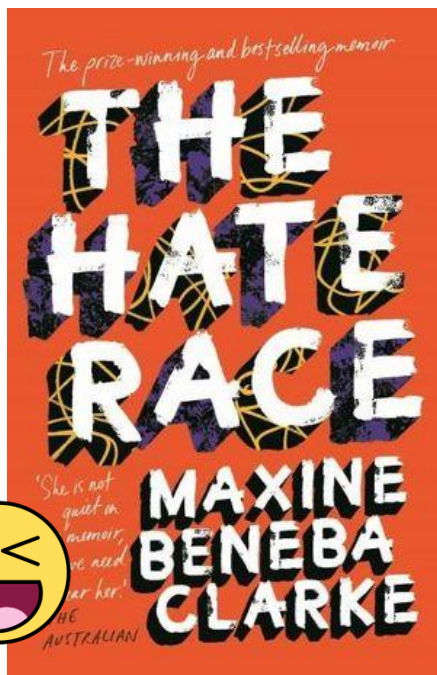
We do horrible things to one another because we don't see the person it affects. . . . We don't see them as people.

Trevor Noah, host of *The Daily Show* on Comedy Central, shares his remarkable story of growing up in South Africa with a black South African mother and a white European father at a time when it was against the law for a mixed-race child to exist. But he did exist--and from the beginning, the often-misbehaved Trevor used his keen smarts and humor to navigate a harsh life under a racist government.

In a country where racism barred blacks from social, educational, and economic opportunity, Trevor surmounted staggering obstacles and created a promising future for himself thanks to his mom's unwavering love and indomitable will.

This honest and poignant memoir adapted from the #1 *New York Times* bestseller *Born a Crime: Stories from a South African Childhood* will astound and inspire readers as well as offer a fascinating perspective on South Africa's tumultuous racial history.

The Hate Race – Maxine Beneba Clarke



WINNER of the NSW Premier's Literary Award Multicultural NSW Award 2017

Shortlisted for the Victorian Premier's Literary Award for Non-Fiction 2017

Shortlisted for the ABIA Biography Book of the Year 2017

Shortlisted for the Indie Award for Non-Fiction 2017

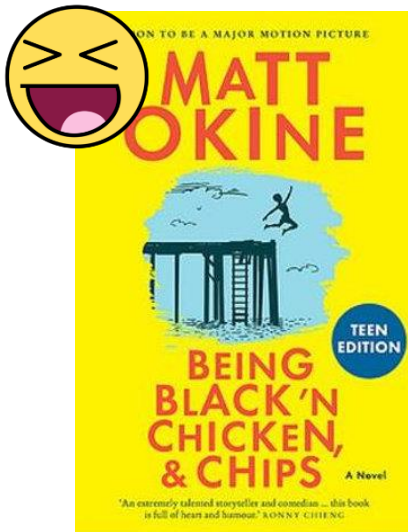
Shortlisted for the Stella Prize 2017

Against anything I had ever been told was possible, I was turning white. On the surface of my skin, a miracle was quietly brewing . . .

Suburban Australia. Sweltering heat. Three bedroom blonde-brick. Family of five. Beat-up Ford Falcon. Vegemite on toast. Maxine Beneba Clarke's life is just like all the other Aussie kids on her street. Except for this one, glaring, inescapably obvious thing.

From one of Australia's most exciting writers, and the author of the multi-award-winning *Foreign Soil*, comes *The Hate Race*: a powerful, funny, and at times devastating memoir about growing up black in white middle-class Australia.

Being Black, 'n Chicken and Chips – Matt Okine



A heartbreaking and often hilarious story about trying to grow up when everything is falling apart from one of Australia's leading comic talents. Themes of grief, loss, identity and the pressure to fit in.

Mike Amon just wants to fit in. He wants to be a star athlete. He wants his dad to stop embarrassing him. He wants his first kiss. He also wants his mum to survive.

When his mum is diagnosed with advanced cancer, Mike figures if he gets his own life right and makes his mum proud, maybe it'll be enough to help her get better.

But this might be harder than it looks. First, he has to move in with his African dad whose skills in the kitchen don't extend beyond heating up frozen chicken nuggets. Then he has to contend with the school bully who has it in for him, and all while navigating puberty as a late bloomer and trying to face a serious phobia of

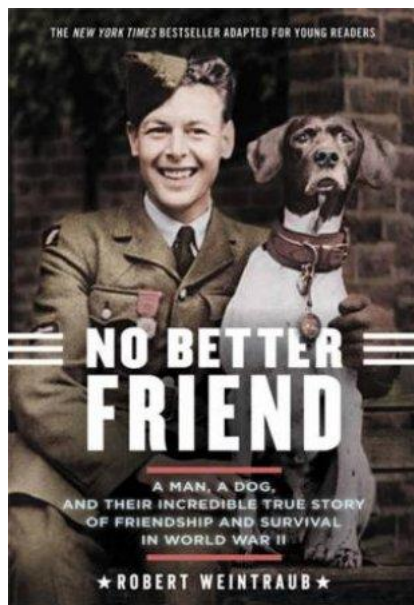
jellyfish.

As if that wasn't enough, the girl he has a crush on has her own heartbreak to deal with, and after a dramatic encounter down at the Jetty, Mike finds himself being rushed to hospital nursing the worst injury imaginable.

If he can't even sort out his own problems, how can he possibly save his mum?

Based on Matt Okine's award-winning stand-up show, this is a heart-breaking and hilarious story about trying to grow up when everything around you is falling down

No Better Friend – Robert Weintraub



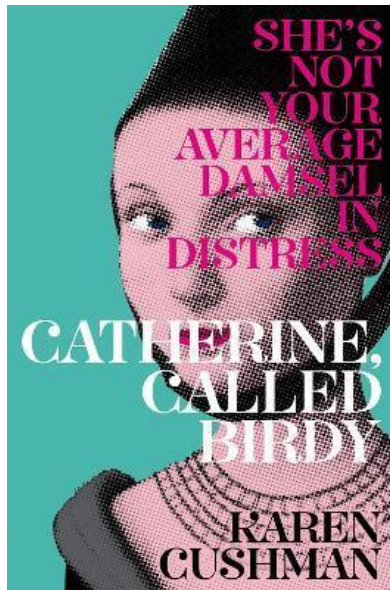
No Better Friend tells the remarkable story of Royal Air Force technician Frank Williams and Judy, a purebred pointer, who met in an internment camp during WWII. Judy was a fiercely loyal animal who sensed danger and instinctively mistrusted anyone in enemy uniform.

Their relationship deepened throughout their imprisonment. The prisoners suffered severe beatings which Judy would interrupt with her barking. The dog became a beacon for the men, who saw in her survival a flicker of hope for their own.

Judy was the war's only canine POW, and when she passed away in 1950, she was buried in her Air Force jacket. Williams would never own another dog. Their story--of an unbreakable bond forged in the worst circumstances--is one of the great undiscovered sagas of World War II.

The Dark Ages

Catherine Called Birdy – Karen Cushman

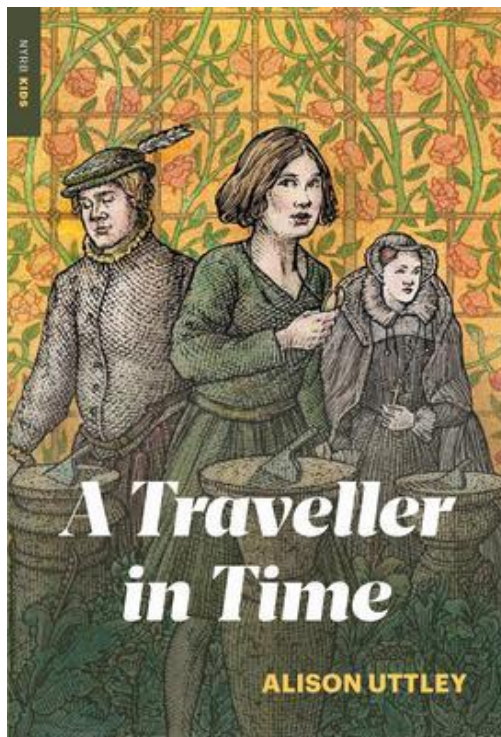


Shaggy Beard wishes to take me to wife! What a monstrous joke. That dog assassin whose breath smells like the mouth of Hell, who makes wind like others make music, who is so ugly and old!

Catherine's in trouble. Caught between a mother who is determined to turn her into the perfect medieval lady and a father who wants her to marry her off to much older and utterly repulsive suitor. Luckily, Catherine has a plan. She has experience outwitting suitors and is ready to take matters into her own hands.

A fun and vibrant coming-of-age novel about a 14-year-old girl's fight for freedom and right to self-determination.

A Traveller in Time – Alison Uttley

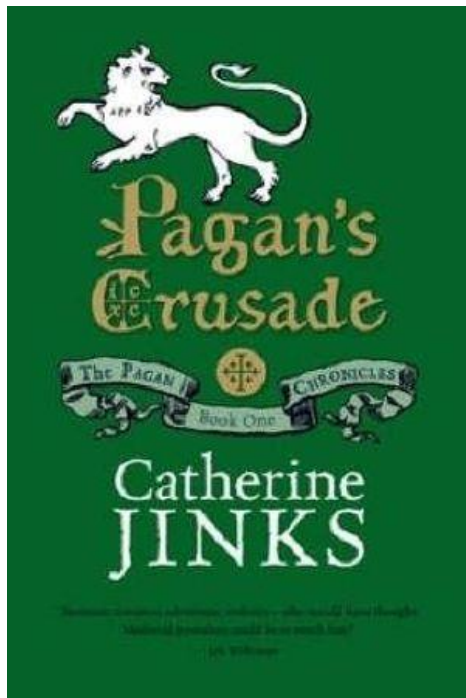


Penelope Taberner Cameron is a solitary and a sickly child, a reader and a dreamer. Her mother, indeed, is of the opinion that the girl has grown all too attached to the products of her imagination and decides to send her away from London for a restorative dose of fresh country air. But staying at Thackers, in remote Derbyshire, Penelope is soon caught up in a new mystery, as she finds herself transported at unforeseeable intervals back and forth from modern to Elizabethan times. There she becomes part of a remarkable family that is, Penelope realizes, in terrible danger as they plot to free Mary, Queen of Scots, from the prison in which Queen Elizabeth has confined her.

Penelope knows the tragic end that awaits the Scottish queen, but she can neither change the course of events nor persuade her new family of the hopelessness of their cause, which love, loyalty, and justice all compel them to embrace. Caught between present and past, Penelope is ever more

torn by questions of freedom and fate. To travel in time, she discovers, is to be very much alone. And yet the slow recurrent rhythms of the natural world, beautifully captured by Alison Uttley, also speak of a greater ongoing life that transcends the passage of the years.

Pagan's Crusade – Catherine Jinks



Pagan's Crusade is the first of five books in the Pagan Chronicles.

'Humour, romance, adventure, violence - who would have thought Medieval Jerusalem could be so much fun?' - Lili Wilkinson, Centre for Youth Literature

Wham! So here I am, standing in a sea of dirt, with a big mad Templar

lobbing rocks at my head. Wham! Like some kind of martyr. Wham! He throws like a catapult.

'All right, Pagan, that's enough.' (I should damn well think so.) 'Do you see what your problem is?'

Wait - don't tell me. You are.

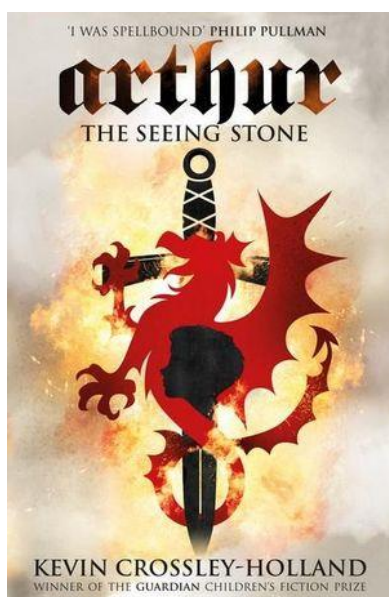
It's twelfth-century Jerusalem, the time of the Crusades. Shrewd and scrappy Pagan has been plucked from

the streets to work for Lord Roland, a Templar knight. Set against a background of mounting tension as Saladin's infidels close in on the Holy City, *Pagan's Crusade* is an exciting and exuberant tale

of medieval adventure.

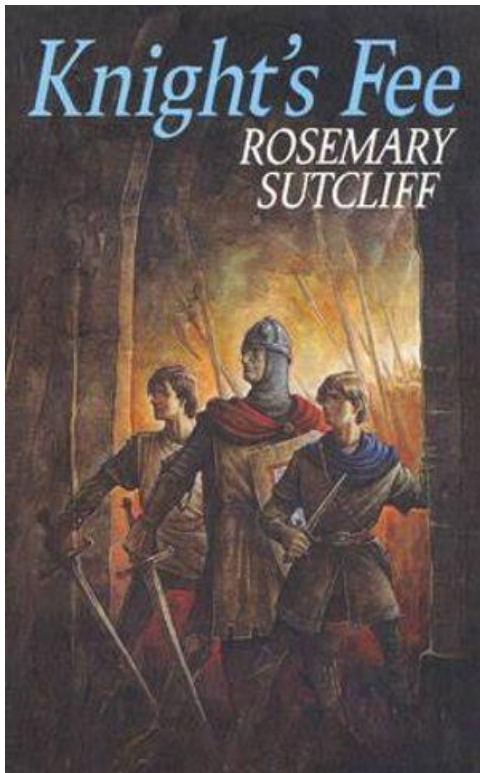
The Seeing Stone: Arthur – Kevin Crossley-Holland

Set in the Welsh marches in the year 1199, *The Seeing Stone* is a uniquely contemporary take on the Arthurian legends. It is an enthralling story of secrets and mysteries in the life of young Arthur Caldicot, who discovers his namesake, the boy King Arthur, in his seeing stone.



The Seeing Stone brilliantly evokes the earthy, uncomfortable reality of daily life in the Middle Ages, and of a whole community - from Gatty, the reeve's daughter to Tanwen the chamber-servant, from Oliver the priest to Lady Alice, keeper of a terrible secret - facing the conflicts and uncertainties of a new century.

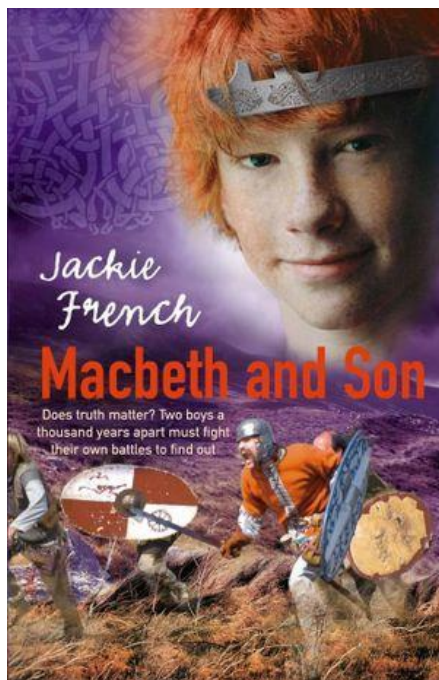
Knight's Fee - Rosemary Sutcliff



An epic historical tale from the acclaimed award-winning author, Rosemary Sutcliff.

Randall is an unloved and unwanted orphan kennel boy at Arundel Castle. And then, one fateful day, he upsets the new Lord's mettlesome horse. Against the violent and turbulent backdrop of Norman England, Sutcliff tells the moving story of a young boy who is wagered and won in a game of chess between a lord and a minstrel . . .

Macbeth and Son – Jackie French

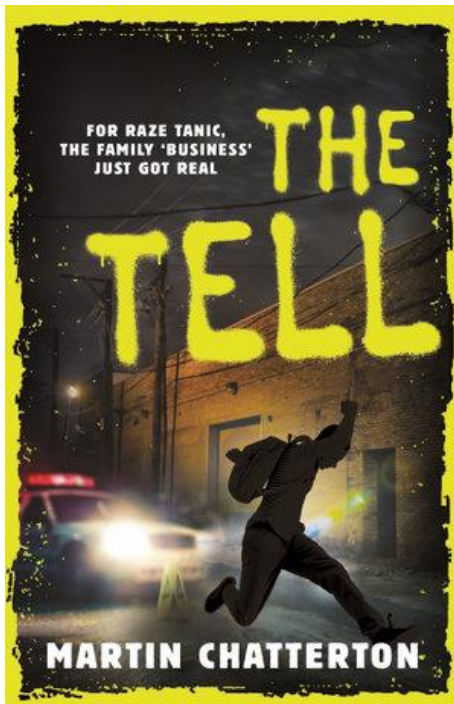


Luke lives in modern-day Australia with his mother and stepfather, Sam. He is burdened by a guilty secret: Sam has helped him to cheat in an entrance exam for a prestigious school. Lulach lives in ninth-century Scotland with his mother and stepfather, Macbeth. Macbeth becomes a great king and restores peace to the land. Luke dreams about Lulach and Macbeth at night. He is also studying the play Macbeth at school and in Shakespeare's version, Macbeth is a villain who murders the rightful king. Why did Shakespeare lie about who Macbeth really was? When is it okay to lie and when should you tell the truth? Similarly to Hitler's Daughter, Macbeth and Son

challenges the reader to consider the actions of people, both in the past and present, and from a seemingly simple storyline, Macbeth and Son arrives at the morally complex question of 'What is Truth? And how important is it?'

Once Upon a Crime

The Tell – Martin Chatterton



The world turns on moments like these. Crossroad moments; a toss of the coin . . . I see half my face in deep shadow, eyes glittering like diamonds, the resemblance to my father never stronger.

Rey Tanic is not like other 14-year-olds. His dad is a mafia boss. His dad is also in jail. When Rey's life explodes, every decision he makes will shape the rest of his life. How far does the apple really fall from the tree?

Cinematic and gripping. Powerful writing for young

The Fall – Tristan Banks



A fast-paced, action-packed story that will have readers on the edge of their seats, from the award-winning author of *Two Wolves*.

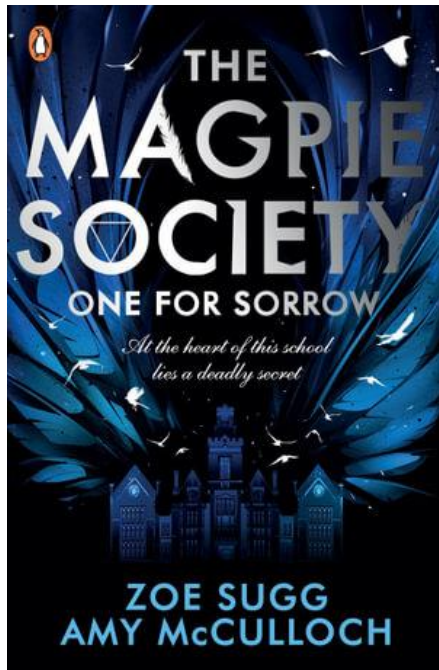
In the middle of the night, Sam is woken by angry voices from the apartment above.

He goes to the window to see what's happening – only to hear a struggle, and see a body fall from the sixth-floor balcony. *Pushed*, Sam thinks.

Sam goes to wake his father, Harry, a crime reporter, but Harry is gone. And when Sam goes downstairs, the body is gone, too. But someone has seen Sam, and knows what he's witnessed.

The next twenty-four hours could be his last.

One for Sorrow – Zoe Sugg/Amy McCulloch



A STUDENT FOUND DEAD ON THE BEACH.

A WEB OF UNANSWERED QUESTIONS.

SOMEONE POISED TO STRIKE AGAIN.

Illumen Hall is a boarding school of tradition and achievement. But tragedy strikes when the body of a student is discovered on the beach - and on her back is an elaborate tattoo of a magpie.

For new student Audrey, it is just another strange and unsettling thing about her new surroundings, along with the secrets the school seems to hide and its weird obsession with magpies. For her roommate Ivy, the death of her friend Lola is just one thing she desperately wants to get past - and having a new student asking questions and cluttering up her personal space is not helping a bit.

But the two girls are forced into an unlikely alliance when a mysterious podcast airs, with one sinister headline-

I KNOW WHO KILLED LOLA. AND ONE OF YOU IS NEXT.

Told from two alternating view-points, this is the first book in a modern gothic thriller series that will have you gripped like no other book this year. **Welcome to the Magpie Society, your new YA obsession . . .**

Enola Holmes (Netflix tie-in)

The Case of the Missing Marquess

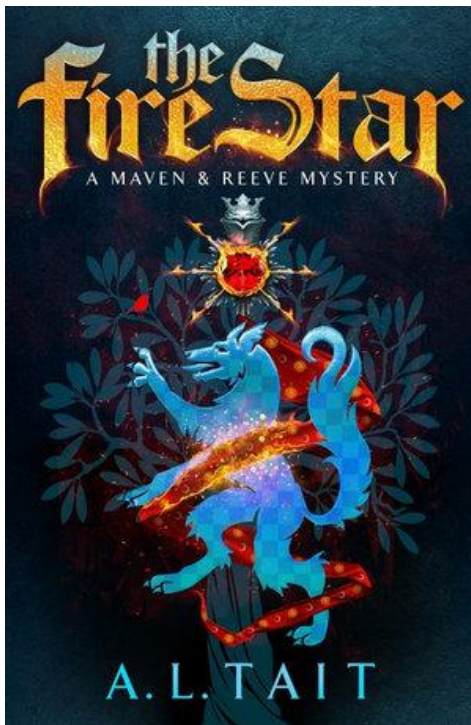


Upon the disappearance of their mother, Enola Holmes, the child sister of Sherlock and Mycroft Holmes runs away to become a fugitive private detective herself.

When Enola Holmes, sister to the detective Sherlock Holmes, discovers her mother has disappeared, she quickly embarks on a journey to London in search of her. But nothing can prepare her for what awaits. Because when she arrives, she finds herself involved in the kidnapping of a young marquess, fleeing murderous villains, and trying to elude her shrewd older brothers--all while attempting to piece together clues to her mother's strange disappearance. Amid all the mayhem, will Enola be able to decode the necessary clues

and find her mother?

The Fire Star: A Maven & Reeve Mystery: Book 1 – A.L.Tait



'I was up past midnight finishing this book! The mystery kept me turning the pages, and I felt like I'd known Maven and Reeve forever.' - Amie Kaufman, *New York Times* bestselling author of *Ice Wolves*

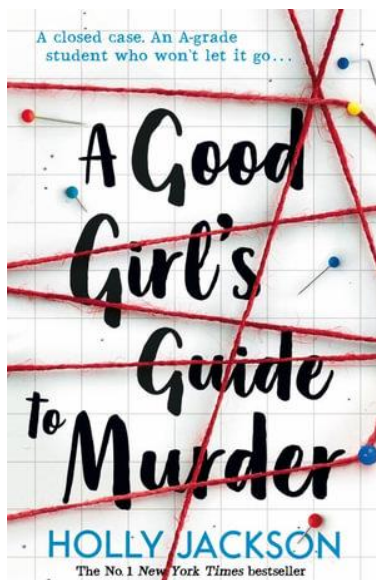
A maid with a plan.
A squire with a secret.
A missing jewel.
A kingdom in turmoil.

Maven and Reeve have three days to solve the mystery of the Fire Star. If they don't, they'll lose everything.

This could be a complete disaster . . . or the beginning of a friendship.

Bestselling author A. L. Tait is back with the intriguing story of two unlikely allies and a mystery to solve that could change their lives.

Good Girl's Guide to Murder: Book 1 – Holly Jackson



A debut YA crime thriller as addictive as *Serial* as compelling as *Riverdale* and as page-turning as *One of Us Is Lying*

The case is closed. Five years ago, schoolgirl Andie Bell was murdered by Sal Singh. The police know he did it. Everyone in town knows he did it. Almost everyone. Having grown up in the small town that was consumed by the crime, Pippa Fitz-Adeleke chooses the case as the topic for her final project.

But when Pip starts uncovering secrets that someone in town desperately wants to stay hidden, what starts out as a project begins to become Pip's dangerous reality . . .

Perfect for fans of *One of Us Is Lying*, *We Were Liars*, *Gone Girl* and *The Hazel Wood*.