

Get ready to enter  
the wondrous world of the



# Kids' Reading Guide

2017 - 2018



Handpicked and reviewed by Australia's leading booksellers






# Step Boldly...

## Welcome to the 2017-2018 Kids' Reading Guide

Through reading books, kids can explore new worlds, be introduced to new ideas and see the world through other's eyes. Reading can spark the imagination, inspire curiosity and of course, provide hours of entertainment. As booksellers, we know just how important reading can be which is why the Australian Booksellers Association produces the *Kids' Reading Guide*, now in its 17th year. On these pages you will find books for babies through to young adults that will encourage children to step boldly into the world of books and reading. All the books have been selected and reviewed by leading Australian booksellers, with the help of some enthusiastic younger readers.

This year we have lots of great Australian titles throughout the guide along with our Australian Stories and #LoveOzYA features so keep an eye out for the Australia icon. 

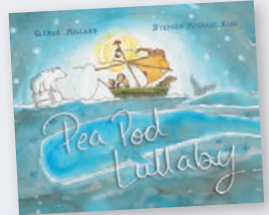
Thank you to Hachette Australia for sharing the artwork from *Nevermoor*, an exciting first book from young Queensland author Jessica Townsend (p23), used for the cover and internal design.



## Pea Pod Lullaby

Glenda Millard and Stephen Michael King | HB \$24.99

A small family on the run from danger escapes across the seas, and on their way to safety witness the plight of endangered animals. A perfect blend of beautiful language and exquisite illustrations shows that with hope and courage none of us are so small that we cannot make a difference if we work together to save our world.



## Big Box Little Box

Caryl Hart & Edward Underwood | PB \$12.99

Lots of boxes, one curious cat, and one sneaky mouse are the perfect combination in this clever story. The playful illustrations enhance the simple rhyming text, making this so much fun to read aloud. A great book to introduce colours, shapes, and sizes to toddlers beginning to learn these concepts. Be prepared to read this one over and over again!



## How Do You Sleep?

Olivia Cosneau | BB \$17.99

## What Are You Wearing Today?

Janik Coat | BB \$17.99

What are you wearing today? Well it depends! Is it sunny or windy? Pull the tabs to decide what to wear. How do you sleep? In a pouch or under a wing, open the flap and you'll soon see! These beautifully designed pop-up books with flaps to lift will delight any reader with their vibrant illustrations and interactive pages.



## Still Stuck

Shinsuke Yoshitake | HB \$17.99

Young children will delight in this laugh-out-loud story. Shown in simple cartoon style illustrations, a little boy tries to assert his independence by undressing himself but gets stuck with his shirt on his head. In his panic he imagines what life will be like if he remains stuck forever. Luckily his mother is there to help – until his next misadventure with tricky pyjamas!



# Baby & Toddler cont.

## Froggy Green

Anna Walker | BB \$14.99



What is your favourite colour? Fairy pink, froggy green or maybe monster purple? Follow along as a group of kids share their favourite colours, play together and get a sweet treat at the end! This book is excellent for encouraging very young children to learn their colours, and Anna Walker's illustrations are an absolute joy.



## The Baby Animal Book

Jennifer Cossins | PB \$16.99



Did you know that a baby fox is called a kit or a baby Tasmanian devil an imp? Learn the names of some cute, cuddly, unusual and ordinary baby animals in this enjoyable little book colourfully illustrated by a fabulous Australian artist.



## The Bum Book

Kate Mayes and Andrew Joyner | HB \$19.99



If you've ever read to a toddler you will know that bums are a giggly subject, so be prepared as this book will be on high rotation at story time! After all, having a bum is something we can all relate to and it's hard not to love these illustrations by Andrew Joyner, especially as they are even cheekier than usual.



## At the Zoo I See Joshua Button and Robyn Wells

At the Beach I See Kamsani Bin Salleh | BB \$9.99



Babies love these board books. They trace the outline of the colourful, distinctive illustrations to make new discoveries. Reading the text is a joy with its lyrical sounds. Perfect for inspiring outings to the zoo and the beach. An outstanding early childhood series from Indigenous Australian publisher, Magabala Books.





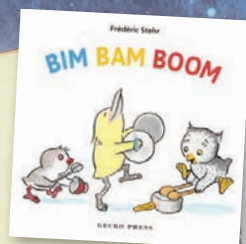


**Ava Claire,  
5 months**

## Bim Bam Boom

Frederic Stehr | BB \$16.99

Reading this book reminded me of going to my music playgroup, one of my favourite things to do! I especially enjoyed it when Mum got some plastic tubs from the kitchen and we Bim Bam Boomed along with the book.



## Listen to the Dance Music

Marion Billet | BB \$18.99

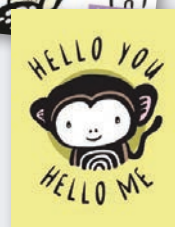
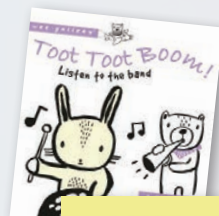
With a button to push on every spread that introduces the very young to different styles of dance music, this book is sure to get everyone up and dancing. But don't worry, there's an off switch just in case you get too worn out before naptime!



## Toot, Toot, Boom! Listen to the Band

Marion Billet | BB \$19.99

Introduce the baby in your life to the sights and sounds of the world around them with these delightful cloth and board books. *Hello You, Hello Me* introduces the youngest babies to sun and fun and has a mirror too. *Toot, Toot, Boom!* is a fun way to learn about animals and instruments and it has a very handy off switch!



## The Very Noisy Baby

Alison Lester | HB \$24.99

A very noisy baby with a talent for making unusual sounds has the townsfolk convinced their missing creatures are in the little pink house on the edge of town. Alas, no, but this gives big sister a bright idea – can the noisy baby coax the animals out of hiding? Gorgeous illustrations accompany lively rhyming text with lots of growls, neighs and squawks to make story time lots of fun!

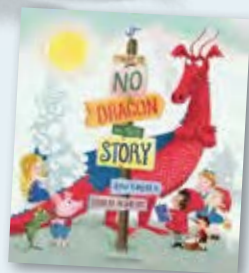




## There Is No Dragon In This Story

Lou Carter and Deborah Allwright | PB \$12.99

Things turn into a bit of a hoo-ha when the Dragon decides he's done with being the bad guy and wants to have a crack at hero-ing. An outrageously good story for reading aloud, complete with sneezing giants, irritable fairy tale characters and one very eager dragon.



## Franklin's Flying Bookshop

Jen Campbell and Katie Harnett | HB \$24.99

Franklin is a book-loving dragon who wants to share his love of reading but being a dragon, he only manages to scare people away. That is until he meets Luna and together they embark on an adventure to share their love of books with everyone. A lovely story about books and reading and friendship.



Henry, Age 3

## Little Mouse Helps Out

Riikka Jantti | HB \$17.99

This is my favourite book because Little Mouse is just like me! I always help my mum with the chores, especially if my friend is coming for a play. Little Mouse is good at sharing and so am I, well most of the time at least. I always ask my mum and dad to read this to me over and over again because I love it so much.





## Little People, Big Dream Series

### Rosa Parks

Lisbeth Kaiser and Marta Antelo | HB \$19.99

### Audrey Hepburn

Isabel Sanchez Vegara and Amaia Arrazola | HB \$19.99

### Emmeline Pankhurst

Lisbeth Kaiser and Ana Sanfelippo | HB \$19.99

These beautifully illustrated books are a great way to introduce younger readers to some of history's truly inspirational women and the times they lived in. Look out for more books in the series and start building your collection today!



## Oi Cat!

Kes Gray and Jim Field | HB \$24.99

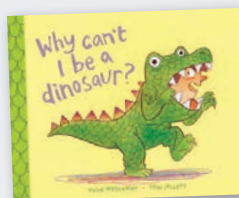
Frog, Dog and Cat are back and they're looking for the perfect seat for Cat because Frog has changed the rules so Cat can no longer sit on the mat. And he can't sit on a pillow like an armadillo or on some honey like a bunny. More hilarious rhyming antics from these three crazy characters.



## Why Can't I Be A Dinosaur?

Kylie Westaway and Tom Jellett | HB \$24.99

Nellie is not happy to discover that her 'dinosaur day' has clashed with Aunt Daisy's wedding. She can't possibly wear a dress today! After much stomping and roaring she settles on a brilliant compromise. A delight to behold, she clomps down the aisle strewing pink petals, green dinosaur feet poking out from the hem of her purple bridesmaid's dress. Go Nellie!



## The Lion in our Living Room

Emma Middleton and Briony Stewart | HB \$24.99

Tom and Tilly wish and wonder – will the lion come to play? Celebrating dads, and the joy of make believe, this book is a pleasure to read aloud. The lions hidden within the delightful and detailed illustrations make this a picture book that can be read again and again and again.



# Picture Books cont.

## Unplugged

Steve Antony | HB \$24.99

Blip spends all day inside plugged into her computer, but when there is a powercut she becomes unplugged and tumbles outside. She plays new games, makes new friends and visits faraway places. A cute way to remind children that while playing electronically can be fun, there's plenty of entertainment to be found if you take the time to look elsewhere.

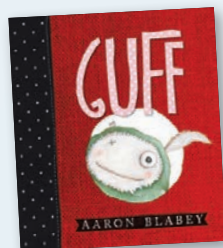


## Guff

Aaron Blabey | HB \$16.99



The slightly whacky illustrations in this simple, funny picture book perfectly capture a little girl's love for her special soft toy. Over the years, Guff has been abandoned on the bus, rescued (by mum) from a swimming pool, lost, found, washed and dried. He's missing an eye and an ear and is pretty ragged round the edges – evidence of having been almost literally loved to bits!



## Grace and Katie

Susanne Merritt and Liz Anelli | HB \$19.99



Grace and Katie are twins who love to draw but Grace loves everything to be neat and organised while Katie loves everything to be messy. When they decide to draw a map of their home and street the girls can't agree on how it should be done. They both decide to create their own and things do not go to plan. A beautiful story for all ages about sharing and caring and working together.



## Danny Blue's Really Excellent Dream

Max Landrak | HB \$26.99



Everything in Danny's world is blue, until the night he has a Really Excellent Dream about a whale that is NOT blue! Thrilled, he re-creates this colour, calls it RED, and unveils it to the townsfolk. Initially unpopular, it catches on and starts appearing everywhere, and then Danny dreams of a yellow fire engine.... A tale for older picture book readers about taking a risk and embracing the new.



## After the Fall

Dan Santat | HB \$26.99

In the epilogue to the beloved classic nursery rhyme, Humpty Dumpty, while physically recovered, is afraid to get back up on his wall. But Humpty refuses to let his fear and anxiety stop him and with courage and determination he gets back up. This is a beautifully illustrated and inspirational book for children and adults about resilience and perseverance.

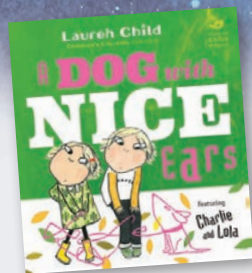




## Charlie and Lola: A Dog with Nice Ears

Lauren Child | HB \$24.99

"I have this little sister Lola. She is small and very funny." It's so great to have this brother and sister team back. This time Lola wants a dog but dad says ABSOLUTELY NO DOGS! but she can have a pet. As always, there's a twist in the tale, making this a fun read-aloud to share with fans old and new.



## The Wolf, The Duck & The Mouse

Mac Barnett and Jon Klassen | HB \$24.99

This hilarious story, accompanied by Jon Klassen's wonderful retro illustrations, follows the escapades of wolf, a gastronomic duck and a fearful mouse. Adults and youngsters alike will love discovering the reason for wolf's howl. A joyous romp, destined to become a firm favourite for bedtime reading.



## Izzy Gizmo

Pip Jones and Sara Ogilvie | HB \$24.99

Izzy Gizmo's inventions are weirdly wonderful but don't always work. When Izzy rescues an injured crow with wings that are too broken to repair, she sets out to make a set of wings so her new friend can fly. The bright illustrations and rhyming text are a perfect match for this fantastically feisty character who doesn't give up.



## Florence Frizzball

Claire Freedman and Jane Massey | PB \$16.99

This delightful story is about a young girl learning to love and accept the things that make her different. Brightly illustrated with simple text, this easy-to-read story, which celebrates the joys of sibling friendship, also has a great message about celebrating the special characteristics that make us who we are.



## I Just Ate My Friend

Heidi McKinnon | HB \$24.99

Making new friends can be hard, especially if you have just eaten the one you had! Now no one wants to be friends with this poor monster. Will there ever be another friend out there? A fabulous laugh-out-loud book to share with kids about how we should treat our friends, especially if we want to keep them.



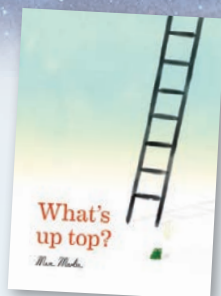


## What's Up Top?

Marc Martin | HB \$24.99



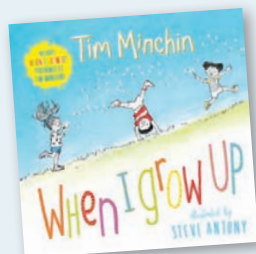
A tiny frog finds an incredibly tall ladder propped against a wall and wonders what's at the top. Marc Martin's wonderfully inventive text and trademark illustrations will keep you entertained until the very last page, where you may or may not find out what's up top. A fantastic read for little ones with a cheeky sense of humour and a keen imagination.



## When I Grow Up

Tim Minchin and Steve Antony | HB \$19.99

*When I Grow Up* is everything you'd expect from the genius of Tim Minchin, with a touch of inspiration from Roald Dahl: playful, silly and heart-filled. It's a rhythmic, joyous ride about a wish to be able to go to bed late, watch cartoons forever, and eat lollies at all times. Ultimately it's about the joy of freedom that both kids and grown-ups will identify with. Includes a digital download of the song.



## Zoom

Sha'an d'Anthes | HB \$26.99



Scout – an inventor and explorer – is off on a space adventure. Safe inside a trusty rocket, Scout zooms through space, visiting each planet. When Scout runs into some trouble, who will make sure our explorer returns home in time for bed? This book is gorgeous, and features a wonderfully creative illustration style. Perfect for every little adventurer!



## Sarah and the Steep Slope

Danny Parker and Matt Ottley | HB \$24.99



Award winning duo Danny Parker and Matt Ottley combine once again on this delightful picture book highlighting the struggles, both large and small, we might face in our daily lives. Through the playful images and rhythmical sentences, we come to see that like Sarah facing the steep slope, it's not just about being brave but also knowing when to reach out for help that will get us to the top.





## Here We Are: Notes For Living On Planet Earth

Oliver Jeffers | HB \$24.99

This beautiful picture book is an inspirational guide to all the questions children may have about our planet earth and how we live. Ideal for the young reader exploring the world around them and full of Oliver Jeffers' stunning illustrations, this is a perfect book for families to enjoy together.



## Pig the Star

Aaron Blabey | HB \$16.99

On a glam photo shoot for Doggie Starz, Pig mines the costume box for all it's worth and trots out some pretty impressive impersonations—Marilyn, Madonna, Snoop Dog... But Pig sees red when it's Trevor's turn to shine. This is my favourite Pig the Pug book so far, and Trevor as Elvis is such a special treat!



## The Great Rabbit Chase

Freya Blackwood | HB \$24.99

The first picture book both illustrated and written by Freya Blackwood is a special nod to the importance and connection of community. Gumbboot the rabbit is a talented escape artist and he leads the residents of the whole town in a chase. But why does he keep running away in such a hurry? You will just have to keep reading to see!



## Koalas Eat Gum Leaves

Laura Bunting and Philip Bunting | HB \$16.99

From the creator of the delightful *Mopoke* comes another sparse but lovely adventure. All koalas eat gum leaves – wrong! Some koalas eat ice cream and lots of it. Find out what happens to this ice cream loving koala and learn some interesting facts about the koala too.



## I Can't Sleep!

Stephanie Blake | PB \$15.99

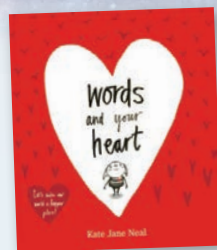
There is something very captivating and appealing about Stephanie Blake's series of picture books featuring the adventures of Simon, a young super rabbit. Maybe it's the strong, bold colour palette. Or the all too human emotions she captures in her stories of Simon and his little brother. This one celebrates bravery and brotherly love.



## Words and Your Heart

Kate Jane Neal | PB\$14.99

A beautiful story about the magic of words and how they can make you happy or sad, and best of all, can make you feel loved. Simple black and white illustrations with injections of red make this a lovely story to share and enjoy.



## Imagine

John Lennon and Jean Jullien | HB \$24.99

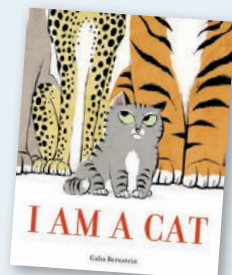
Simply, but lovingly illustrated, *Imagine* brings to life the classic John Lennon song spreading a message of peace, love and hope. Follow the little pigeon who dares to believe that there is a world where all can live together in harmony. All royalties go to Amnesty International.



## I Am A Cat

Galia Bernstein | HB \$21.99

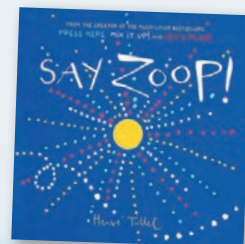
Simon is a cat, anyone can see that. Author-illustrator Galia Bernstein adorably brings him to life with simple lines and colour. However some other, somewhat grander cats don't think he measures up. After all, he is missing some of the very distinctive features of the lion, tiger and other bigger cats but when they start to look for similarities instead of differences, it's easy to see that they are family after all.



## Say Zoop!

Hervé Tullet | HB \$22.99

Tullet has done it again, this time with sound! With dots, bubbles and bursts of colours, this interactive book will have you shouting, whispering and singing along with each page. In the style of *Press Here* and *Mix It Up*, *Say Zoop* perfectly completes the trio by letting readers imagination liberate the story so it comes to life with every read.





## Big Fella Rain

Beryl Webber and Fern Martins | PB \$17.99

The land is reborn when big fella rain comes, splashing onto dry red earth, swelling creeks and billabongs; dragonflies hover, tortoises and frogs come out to play, broilgas dance and Mother Earth is happy. The evocative text and atmospheric watercolours in this beautiful picture book portray the drama and relief of the arrival of the monsoonal rains in northern Australia.



## Little Dog and the Summer Holiday

Corinne Fenton & Robin Cowcher | HB \$24.99

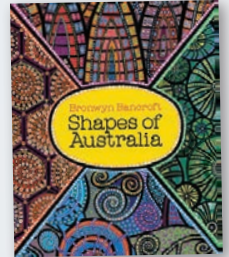
Everyone loves a road trip and Little Dog is no exception. Travelling from Melbourne to Sydney and back again, Little Dog sees so many new things, meets lots of nice people, and discovers that there is nothing better than home. The stunning watercolour illustrations evoke the journey perfectly, so you can picture yourself alongside Little Dog. This delightful story is full of heart and will be loved by the whole family.



## Shapes of Australia

Bronwyn Bancroft | HB \$24.99

This new picture book from award winning Indigenous illustrator Bronwyn Bancroft is a joy to read. Full of her colourful, characteristic artwork, the richness of the Australian landscape is brought beautifully to life. Younger readers will love discovering the colours and shapes of Australia and its animals in this lovely book.



## A is for Australian Animals

Frané Lessac | HB \$24.99

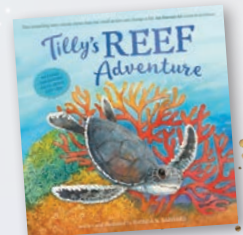
In this follow up to her immensely popular and award winning *A is for Australia*, author-illustrator Frané Lessac takes us on a tour of Australian animals using the alphabet as her vehicle. Her vibrant illustrations of the animals and the landscapes where they can be found provide a great way for young readers to discover facts like, which animal does square poo?



## Tilly's Reef Adventure

Rhonda N. Garward | PB \$19.99

An endearing story about the plight of a baby turtle caught up in a plastic bag whilst exploring the beautiful ocean – leading young readers to an awareness of how they can be active in caring for our marine life.



## The Alien Zoo ... And You!

Adrian Beck & Heath McKenzie | PB \$15.99



Twins Ben and Jen have inherited a very unusual zoo from their grandfather. It's an alien zoo buried deep inside a hollowed out mountain! Luckily they have a manual. Join the twins on their quest to save the aliens and maybe humankind in this funny novel full of great illustrations and some very secret puzzles!



## The Stinky Street Stories: 2 Stinky

Also available - The Stinky Street Stories

Alex Ratt & Jules Faber | PB \$14.99



Best mates Brian and Nerf are back for more stinky adventures. Who else would think of sticking pickles up their noses to cancel out the stench of a bog monster or end up covered in animal poo after spending a day at the zoo? "Petrifyingly pewtid" fun reads for 7+ or equally "terrifyingly toxicous" fun as read alouds.



Oscar, Age 8

## Dungzilla

James Foley | PB \$14.99



This is a really funny book. Sally Tinker (a kid inventor) is so smart. My favourite part is the giant pizza. Joe (Sally's baby brother) is gross. He's very messy and stinky. I like how there's giant ball of poo. Dung beetles are cool because they clean up poo.



Peter, Age 9

## Patty Takes Charge: Game Day! 3

Also available - Patty Hits the Court: Game Day! 1  
Patty and the Shadows: Game Day! 2

Patty Mills and Jared Thomas | PB \$14.99



*Patty Takes Charge* is about a boy named Patty and he is really good at basketball. He lives in Canberra but he is from the Torres Strait Islands. The story is entertaining and I learned a lot about basketball and the Torres Strait Islands. The Torres Straits sound cool. I like how Patty goes fishing and swimming with his cousins and does traditional dancing.





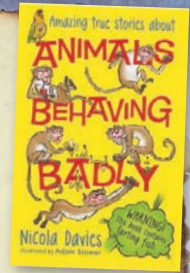


**Lydia, Age 7**

## Animals Behaving Badly

Nicola Davies | PB \$14.99

I loved this book because it was informative in a fun way. I especially enjoyed learning about how monkeys act like humans. In the book there were little texts about unusual animals doing silly things. Watch out for the tent-ripping kea bird!



**Rafferty, Age 5**

## Stack Attack: D-Bot Squad 5 Deep Dive: D-Bot Squad 6

Mac Park and James Hart | PB \$9.99

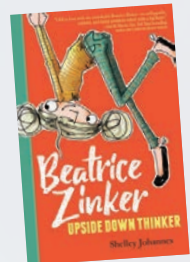
I want to be in the D-Bot Squad! The D-Bot Squad has to build dinosaur robots to catch dinosaurs. Hunter is my favourite member because he is smart and awesome at making D-Bots for challenges. I couldn't wait for D-Bot Squad 5 and 6 to come out. I learned even more things about dinosaurs! Some dinosaurs are strong, some are fast and others are stinky! The D-Bot Squad has to help each other and change their D-Bot designs to catch the dinosaurs. It's lucky that Hunter is so clever and never gives up!



## Beatrice Zinker, Upside Down Thinker

Shelley Johannes | PB \$12.99

Feisty and fun, Beatrice Zinker does all her best thinking upside down. When her best friend Lenny returns from the summer holidays with a new best friend and has forgotten their secret plan, Beatrice springs into action and hatches a plan to win back her friend, navigate the playground politics and placate her big sister.



## The Cursed First Term of Zelda Stitch. Bad Teacher. Worse Witch.

Nicki Greenberg | PB \$14.99

Younger readers will love hapless witch Zelda Stitch and her disagreeable black cat Barnaby. With a classroom of wacky students, the more Zelda tries to keep her magic contained the more mishaps happen. With terrific illustrations and themes of fairness and kindness, this will have 7+ readers laughing out loud.





## Ava's Big Move: Surf Riders Club 1

Mary van Reyk | PB \$12.99

Moving to a new town can be tough but Ava tries to make the best of it, even though it means leaving behind her best friend and her favourite sport. This fun surf story will make you want to grab your board and head for the waves.



## Funny Kid Stand Up

Matt Stanton | PB \$14.99

## Funny Kid for President

Matt Stanton | PB \$9.99

We first met Max Walburt in *Funny Kid for President* where we were introduced to his temporary best friend Hugo, his arch nemesis Abby Purcell and a stalking duck. The next book in the series is equally hilarious, as Max needs to get his funny back. For fans of *Wimpy Kid* and *Tom Gates*.



## The 91-Storey Treehouse

Andy Griffiths and Terry Denton | PB \$14.99

Andy and Terry have added another 13 storeys to their amazing Treehouse and the crazy adventures just keep on coming. There's so much fun to be had, whether it's hanging out in a submarine sandwich or getting marooned on a desert island.



Katie, Age 8

## Bad Mermaids

Sibéal Pounder | PB \$11.99

This book is great. The mermaids Beattie, Mimi and Zelda are on holidays when they get a 'crabagram' telling them to come home at once. There are bad mermaids around and the good mermaids need to stop them. The three mermaids are very good at looking after the ocean.



Ella, Age 8

## The Girl, The Dog and The Writer in Rome

Katrina Nannestad | PB \$16.99

I found this lovely book a great delight to read. It was an amazing story about friendship and courage. If you add in a hilarious writer, a mischievous dog, a shy girl, a handful of disasters and twists and a few curious mysteries it makes the perfect recipe for a fantastic book! I loved all the descriptions and the way the story unfolded! I even got to learn a bit of Italian from it! I definitely recommend that you read it!





## Play Like A Girl: Bring It On Play Like A Girl: Dream Team Play Like A Girl: Totally Epic Play Like A Girl: Smashing It

Jo Stanley | PB \$12.99



*Eleanor & Odetta,  
Age 11 & 8*

We like these books because of how the girls are really strong and funny. In the first book Sarah's friends and coach help her as the new kid at school with a new sport, footy. Our favourite part is when Micky farts and gets scared as if he's seen a ghost.

## Lyttle Lies: The Pudding Problem

Joe Berger | PB \$15.99

Sam has a habit of stretching the truth and it drives everyone crazy, at home and at school. Find out why Sam has a problem telling the truth in this very funny book that is perfectly matched with comic strip illustrations. The reading level is easy while the humour is sophisticated, making it perfect for reluctant readers.



## The Vampire Knife: The Witching Hours Book 1

Jack Henseleit | PB \$16.99



Warning: this book is creepily addictive! Meet Anna and Max, lovers of scary stories and spooky mythology. But when they unexpectedly become the main characters in their own scary tale, things get strange beyond belief. Dragged into a world of magic, monsters and mystery, this is a fantastic new series for those who don't mind a good ghost story!



## The Magic Misfits

Neil Patrick Harris | PB \$16.99

Award winning actor Neil Patrick Harris has written a magical book and it's sure to be a hit. When street magician Carter teams up with five like-minded kids they find themselves caught up in adventures that are best handled with friendship and plenty of magic. Make sure to keep your eyes peeled for the secret codes and magic tricks.



# Middle Fiction cont.

## The Creakers

Tom Fletcher | PB \$19.99

When the entire town's parents disappear leaving the children to fend for themselves, chaos erupts. But one girl, Lucy, is determined to get her mum back, even if it means she has to confront the 'Creakers', the monsters living under the bed who snatch grown-ups. A darkly magical book (which is only a little scary) recommended for readers 8+.



## Swimming on the Lawn

Yasmin Hamid | PB \$16.99



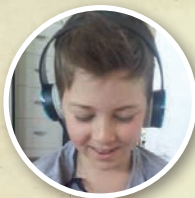
Set in Sudan in the 1960s, you are gently drawn in to the childhood of Farida and her siblings. Making pots of tea and helping to prepare delicious breakfasts, cooling yourself under the shady trees and building blanket forts in the back garden. All the small details of the everyday immerses the reader in Farida's world. The author drops unsettling hints at the future along the way but leaves it up to the reader to speculate what happens to her father. Readers will enjoy comparing and contrasting their childhood experiences and learning about Sudanese culture. Recommended for ages 10+



## Birthday Boy

David Baddiel | PB \$19.99

Sam Green really really loves his birthday. He loves his birthday so much that on his 11th birthday he makes a wish on a shooting star that it could be his birthday every day. He soon discovers that this could actually be quite disastrous. A hilarious roller coaster of a read.



Peter, Age 9

## Kid Normal

Greg James, Chris Smith and Erica Salcedo  
PB \$12.99

It starts off with a boy who is down in the dumps because he's just moved schools. He gets enrolled in "The School" but it turns out that it is not a normal school... It's quite funny and very enjoyable because of its unique ideas and the way Kid Normal looks away from his emotions and saves the day.







Clare, Age 11

## All's Faire in Middle School

Victoria Jamieson | PB \$19.99

This is an amazing book! Imogene has been home schooled by her parents who run the Florida Renaissance Fair, but when she goes to middle school, things are very different. Imogene is a great character and I think readers will be entertained and learn a lot from reading about how she deals with things like friendships at school. I read a lot of graphic novels and this is one of the best I have read!



## Whimsy & Woe

Rebecca McRitchie and Sonia Kretschmar | HB \$24.99

A game of hide-and-seek leaves two siblings in the care of their awful Aunt where an unexpected discovery leads them on a darkly funny, mysterious and treacherous journey towards finding their parents. Exploding surprise pies, pirates and wolves are encountered in a race against time across a sludge swamp and stormy seas. Reminiscent of *A Series of Unfortunate Events*, the melodramatic language and eccentric characters will capture your imagination. Recommended for 9+



## Greta Zargo and the Death Robots From Outer Space

A.F. Harrold and Joe Todd-Stanton | PB \$12.99

Orphaned as a baby, 11-year-old Greta came into her inheritance aged 8 (due to a spelling mistake), and is loosely supervised by Aunt Tabitha. With aspirations to win the local medal for journalism in Upper Lowerbridge, Greta thinks she's found her Big Scoop and is on the trail of a cake thief. Meanwhile, aliens have landed in town and are keen to take over earth. Full of asides (literally, scribbled on the sides of the pages) and interruptions from a hovering silvery robot, this is a whacky read!



## The Shop at Hoopers Bend

Emily Rodda | PB \$16.99

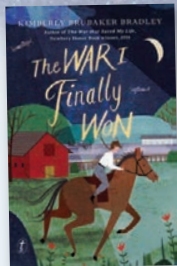
A string of coincidences and uncharacteristically rash decisions bring 11-year-old orphan Quil and recently-retired Bailey together at Hoopers Bend. While Bailey recovers from a minor injury, they fall easily into a companionable routine, hatching plans to revive the old shop. As the layers of the past are peeled back, Quil understands why she feels so at home here. This warm, magical novel is a charming read – I really loved it!



## The War I Finally Won

Kimberly Brubaker Bradley | PB \$19.99

It is World War II and life is different now that Susan, Jamie and Ada are living with Lady Thornton and her daughter Maggie in the crowded cottage. Ada has finally had surgery on her clubfoot and realises that she is not the crippled, mentally damaged girl her mother told her she was. And while she can't always escape the impact of the past, we see Ada really discover who she is in this beautiful sequel to *The War that Saved My Life*.



## Accidental Heroes: The Rogues 1

Lian Tanner | HB \$19.99



A mysterious old lady gives two children magical powers, forcing them to become unlikely companions in thwarting a dastardly plot to kill the Heir. Will they be brave, strong, and clever enough? Lian Tanner is back with another fabulous fantasy adventure that is as fun and thrilling as you could wish for!



## The Extremely Inconvenient Adventures of Bronte Mettlestone

Jaclyn Moriarty and Kelly Canby | HB \$22.99



Bronte has reached the ripe old age of 10 without ever once having an adventure, but all of that changes when she is sent across kingdoms and empires all alone to deliver strange gifts to every single one of her aunts. Bronte must use her quick wit, keen mind, and all her powers of deduction to remain unscathed at the end of her journey. Jaclyn Moriarty has given us a story that is full of fun, magic, mystery, and so much heart. This is one book that you'll want to read again and again!



Rhett,  
Age 11

## The Explorer

Katherine Rundell | PB \$16.99/HB \$22.99

*The Explorer* is a wonderful book of adventure and natural wonder. It invokes imagination and immerses the reader into the natural exotic world of the Amazon. Four children become stranded after their plane crash-landed in the Amazon where they meet a man and learn survival skills. It's an enjoyable masterpiece of suspense and a must read for children who love mystery and adventure.





Grace,  
Age 11

## The Wizards of Once

Cressida Cowell | PB \$19.99

This book is an action-packed adventure about two young characters, Wish the Warrior with her forbidden magical spoon and Xar the Wizard with no magic. Cressida Cowell uses great imagery and descriptive language to tell the story. She has great ideas for characters, like the Sprites, Giants, Ogres, Witches and other magical creatures. She drew the pictures too! I would recommend this book for people who love adventure and action because it's a very fun, entertaining book.



## Saving Marty

Paul Griffin | PB \$16.99

Marty is a pig who thinks he's a dog but now that he weighs 350 pounds, his puppy-like behaviour is downright dangerous and he has to go. Heartbroken, 11-year-old Renzo hatches a plan to save Marty's bacon, and his best friend Paloma returns from music camp just in time to help. An uplifting tale about heroes, friendship and music, with a big sad family secret at its heart.



## The Book of Secrets: Ateban Cipher Book 1

A.L. Tait | PB \$14.99

When Gabe is given a book by a dying monk and told to take it to Aidan he must leave the safety of his home and embark on a quest that leads him into a world of danger and intrigue. This fantastic adventure story has all the hallmarks of a classic tale, full of exciting twists and turns and fabulous characters like the band of feisty girls led by Gwyn who help Gabe reach his destination. I can't wait for Book 2!



## 48 HOURS: The Vanishing

Gabrielle Lord | PB \$14.99

Anika finds the 20-year-old journal of a woman who was convinced her husband was poisoning her. When she is kidnapped after posting blogs about what she has read, her best friend Jazz and her tech-savvy nemesis, Phoenix, who has access to a forensic lab, have just 48 hours to track Anika down before she is silenced forever. A pacey thriller from one of Australia's best.





## The Dollmaker of Krakow

R. M. Romero | HB \$24.99

This book is beautiful! It reminded me of *The Nutcracker* as it is reminiscent of a traditional folk tale with dark undertones due to its Nazi occupied Poland setting. It was also magical and emotional and beautifully written with very rich historical detail. Plus the interiors are gorgeous! *The Dollmaker of Krakow* is the perfect gift book, especially for those who like to buy classics for kids because I think this is definitely a classic in the making!



## The Wonderling

Mira Bartók | HB \$24.99

Oh I fell in love with Arthur No.13 from the moment I started this book.

Arthur is a shy, foxlike foundling who has lived at the Home for Wayward and Misbegotten Creatures run by the evil Miss Carbunkle all his life. When Arthur meets Trinket, a young bird groundling, the two hatch a plan to escape. A beautiful adventure fantasy story that will have you swept up from page 1.



## Timeless 1: Diego and The Rangers Of The Vastlantic

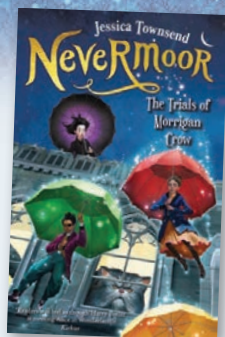
Armand Baltazar | HB \$29.99

The story's great vocabulary took me into the imaginative blend of the past, present and (possible) future that is the Timeless world and I felt like I was every single character all at the same time. The descriptions were incredible and really enhanced the idea that is being portrayed in the writing. It truly allowed a connection to form between me and the book that made it impossible to put down.



Sam, Age 11





## Nevermoor: The Trials of Morrigan Crow

Jessica Townsend | PB \$16.99

'Step Boldly!' into the wonderful world of Nevermoor, certain to captivate children and adult readers alike with its magical worlds and enchanting cast of characters. Follow Morrigan's heart-racing adventures as she seeks to escape her curse and gain entry to the Wondrous Society in this brilliant new fantasy that you won't be able to put down.



## Goldfish Boy

Lisa Thompson | PB \$15.99

A beautifully written, emotionally charged mystery that will keep readers hanging on to the end, with their hand on their heart and teary smile on their face. Matthew is a recluse, trapped in his home by his OCD and intoxicating fear of germs. When a child goes missing he will have to face his demons to do all he can to help.



## Prisoner of Ice and Snow

Ruth Lauren | PB \$12.99

Set in an icy kingdom, this is a fast paced and thrilling adventure story. Valor is determined to free her twin sister Sasha from the harsh fortress in a wolf infested forest. What follows is a story with twists and turns and unlikely friendships that will keep you on the edge of your seat right till the very end.



# Young Adult



KRG is proud to support #LoveOzYA, a community dedicated to celebrating and promoting Australian young adult fiction.

[www.loveozya.com.au](http://www.loveozya.com.au)

#LoveOzYa



## The Fifth Room

A.J. Rushby | \$16.99

High achieving student Miri is invited to join an elite secret society that aims to accelerate scientific discoveries using illegal self-experimentation. The stakes are high as students are pitted against each other for great rewards. As Miri's experiment intensifies she questions just how far she is prepared to go with her research for a society with questionable ethics and deep and dangerous secrets. A psychological thriller that leaves you unable to trust anyone!



## In the Dark Spaces

Cally Black | PB \$19.99

This is a space saga for teens with a world build that feels as complex as Middle Earth in outer space. We meet our hero Tamara amid an epic tale of colonialism and its impact on Indigenous peoples. It is a story about kidnapping, war, family and bonds of love that cannot be broken. Yet it is also a story about hope, empathy and walking a mile in another person's shoes. This excellent debut novel is for mid to older teens as it doesn't shy away from violence but is somehow also warm and touching and ultimately uplifting.



## Beautiful Mess

Claire Christian | PB \$19.99

Ava's best friend is dead. Gideon is skinny and perpetually anxious. Luck is on their side when the two meet. Maybe they can find solace with each other?

A gripping read for late teens with heart, hope and flawed characters (in the best way). Winner of the 2016 Text Prize 'Beautiful Mess' is as heartbreaking as it is raw. 16+



Kimaya, Age 17





## Unrequited

Emma Grey | PB \$19.99

Seventeen-year-old Kat must be the only girl in Sydney not madly in love with Angus Marsden, lead singer of Unrequited, the world's biggest boy band but after being forced to go with her younger sisters to their concert, that's all about to change. This is the perfect romantic comedy with great characters, not one but two love triangles and of course, a happy ending.



## Untidy Towns

Kate O'Donnell | PB \$19.95

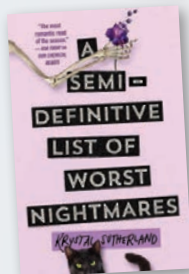
Year 12 scholarship boarder Addie doesn't know what she wants to do, but she does know she's over meeting everyone's expectations. Will running away to her Victorian country town solve her problems, and what about falling in love? Is everywhere just a different kind of ordinary? This #loveozya debut packs a lot of feels.



## A Semi-definitive List of Worst Nightmares

Krystal Sutherland | PB \$19.99

Esther loses more than her money when she is mugged by childhood crush, Jonah, at the bus stop. He now has the list of everything she fears and is on a mission to force her to face them. A clever and quirky tale of dysfunctional families, letting go and falling in love, with many poignant passages that beg to be re-read.



## Take Three Girls

Cath Crowley, Simmone Howell, Fiona Woods | PB \$18.99

Three amazing Australian authors come together to write this fun and hard-hitting story of first love and female friendship. Popular and artistic Ady, sporty and outgoing Clem, smart and musical Kate – three girls who become friends despite their differences, banding together to take down the cyber bullies and heal their broken hearts. This story was a joy to read.



## Unearthed

Amie Kaufman and Meagan Spooner | PB \$19.99

Two knockout Australian authors team together for this space fantasy/adventure. Jules and Amelia attempt to save the human race by exploring an alien temple on a distant planet. Think Indiana Jones in a galaxy far, far away. Perfect for readers looking for a fantasy/science fiction read with a touch of romance and loads of action.



## Genuine Fraud

E. Lockhart | PB \$19.99

Jule is a liar who believes the stories she is telling are true. When she meets up with Imogen again after many years their friendship becomes very intense, but when Imogen rejects Jule, things take an unexpected twist. Told backwards from present day to where it all began, *Genuine Fraud* will keep you guessing until the very end. A page-turner full of deception, intrigue and thrills.



## Warcross

Marie Lu | PB \$24.99

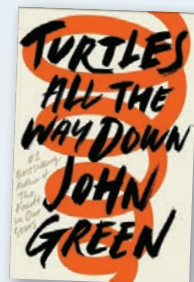
To get herself out of debt, teenage hacker Emika Chen works as a bounty hunter tracking down players who are betting illegally on Warcross, an immersive game played by millions every day. When she accidentally infiltrates the opening game of the Warcross Championships, what follows is a fast-paced, highly addictive ride through a futuristic world with an awesome main character.



## Turtles All the Way Down

John Green | HB \$27.99

Wait no longer for John Green's new book because it is finally here! Aza Holmes is a young woman navigating daily life within the ever-tightening spiral of her own thoughts. This book is about lifelong friendship, the intimacy of an unexpected reunion, Star Wars fan fiction, and a tuatara, which is one of the most unique animals in the world. As usual with John Green, grab your tissues and start reading!

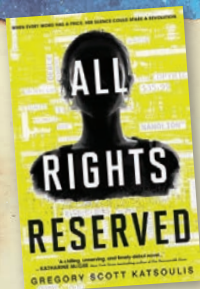


## All the Crooked Saints

Maggie Stiefvater | PB \$19.99

Here is a thing everyone wants: a miracle. Here is the thing everyone fears: what it takes to get one. At the heart of Bicho Raro you will find the Soria family, who all have the ability to perform unusual miracles. But what you get isn't what you expect. Delve into the new world full of love and dark mythology from bestselling author Maggie Stiefvater.





## All Rights Reserved

Gregory Scott Katsoulis | PB \$19.99

*All Rights Reserved* is a must-read book that explores the nature of our society and the importance of our individual freedoms. It delivers brilliantly on a unique concept, resulting in a massively enjoyable novel. I would highly recommend this book to anyone with an interest in dystopian fiction.



Louis, Age 15

## They Both Die at the End

Adam Silvera | PB \$17.99

Imagine knowing that sometime in the next 24 hours you will die. You don't know how or when, just that it is inevitable. What would you do? For Mateo and Rufus the answer is simple – they want to live before they die. This book is heart-breakingly beautiful, and the characters will stay with you long after the final page.



## La Belle Sauvage: The Book of Dust Volume One

Philip Pullman | PB \$32.99

Readers of the *His Dark Materials* series will be enraptured by *La Belle Sauvage*, the first in a new trilogy from Philip Pullman. Set ten years before *The Northern Lights*, it features Lyra, daemons, alethiometers and the Magisterium. This much-anticipated new story is sure to delight fans and new readers alike.



## The Taste of Blue Light

Lydia Ruffles | PB \$19.99

I cannot recommend this book highly enough! It's raw and suspenseful with an almost thriller-like feel, distortions of reality, and a flawed main character who I became addicted to. Plus a very passionate and realistic romance kept me wanting to turn the pages until the early hours of the morning. Destined to be one of my favourite YA series ever!



## Invictus

Ryan Graudin | PB \$16.99

A great time travel story that follows Far and his thieving friends. They've been sent to recover historical items to sell on the black market but they soon stumble upon a rip in time that is swallowing up large chunks of history. A hyper speed chase through time erupts and what follows is electrifying adventure that twists and turns.

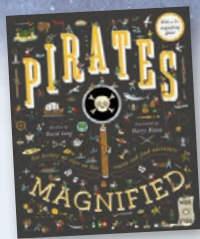




## Pirates Magnified

David Long and Harry Bloom | HB \$27.99

Ahoy there! Are you ready for a swash-buckling pirate adventure? Grab the magnifying glass from inside the cover and search on every page for ten different things. Look for treasure while learning about pirates and life on the high seas.



## My Little Night Light

Klutz | \$24.99

This DIY night light kit comes with four different backgrounds, five landscapes, and over fifty transparent punch-outs that can be mixed and matched to create 3D scenes that glow at night. The great thing about the Klutz books is that they come with everything you need, so no searching for glue, and they make great presents.



## Etchart: Hidden Forrest

## Etchart: Secret Sea

A.J. Wood and Dinara Mirtapolva | Novelty \$18.99

Absolutely gorgeous, amazingly simple and totally addictive. These activity books will keep children and adults who love colouring busy for hours. Using the wooden stylus to etch away the surface material is a great way to unwind and the beautiful vibrant results are very satisfying. It only requires one tool, making it perfect for on the go.



## A Thousand Billion Things (and Some Sheep)

Loic Clement and Anne Montel | HB \$24.99

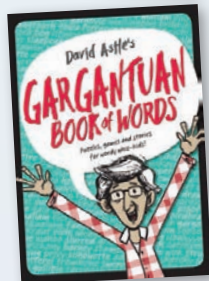
Every day there are thousands of choices to be made from what to eat for breakfast to what clothes to put on in the morning but when it comes to bedtime there is only one thing to do and that is to count sheep. This is the ultimate search and find book in which you can immerse yourself for hours.

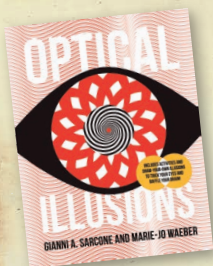


## David Astle's Gargantuan Book of Words

David Astle | PB \$19.99

David Astle is our favourite word nerd! This time he has created the ultimate activity book for the junior word buff in your life. Jam-packed with puzzles, quizzes, lists, funny drawings, and language facts. At two hundred and thirty pages, this gargantuan book of words offers hours of wordish pleasure.





## Optical Illusions

Gianni Sarcone and Marie-Jo Waeber  
HB \$24.99

I enjoyed being challenged by all the optical illusions in this book. I learnt about all the ways your eyes can play tricks on you. My favourite is the expanding gothic heart – the heart looks like it's getting bigger but it really isn't. Be careful you don't hypnotise yourself like I did!



Jacob,  
Age 11

## Space Racers: Make Your Own Paper Rockets

Isabel Thomas | HB \$39.99

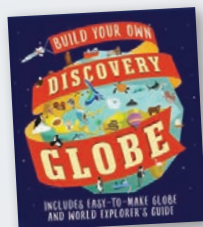
Space Racers contains everything you need to press out and make your own paper rocket models. From the rocket that made the first manned space flight, Vostok K, to the future of space travel, the Skylon space plane. Also comes with a booklet full of fun facts about space travel and the world of rocket science.



## Discovery Globe: Build-Your-Own Globe Kit

Leon Gray and Sara Edmonds | HB \$34.99

This interactive build-your-own globe comes with a superbly designed, illustrated atlas. Learn all about the natural world, human history, countries and continents. Search icons, answer questions and get to know the incredible world we live in. Includes the Flying Doctors in Australia under Unusual Jobs.



## Build the Dragon

Dugald A. Steer | HB \$24.99

Build a spectacular 3D moving model of a Western dragon, then wind up the motor and watch it come to life! Find out everything you need to know about dragons from around the world with the 32-page book, from myths and legends to anatomy, behaviour and supernatural powers.



## Women in Sports: 50 Fearless Athletes Who Played to Win

Rachel Ignatofsky | HB \$27.99

*Women in Sports* highlights the achievements and stories of 50 women athletes from around the world – from the well known like Billie Jean King to lesser-known athletes like Indian cricketer Mithali Raj. Beautifully illustrated, these fascinating stories are sure to be an inspiration to all budding athletes. The perfect companion to *Women in Science*.



## The Variety of Life

Nicola Davies and Lorna Scobie | HB \$29.99

What a wonderful celebration of the amazing diversity of the natural world, with millions of species of plants and animals living in water, on land and in the sky! Delightful illustrations are accompanied by fascinating facts, endangered species are marked with a star and everything is given both its common and scientific names. Introductory notes and a comprehensive glossary complete the picture.



## Facts! One for every day of the year

Tracey Turner and Fatti Burke | HB \$22.99

Did you know that a cockroach could live for up to a week without its head, or that Antarctica is a desert, or that Coco Chanel lived at The Hotel Ritz for 30 years? If you didn't, then you need this book. Learn a new fact every day for a whole year. Have fun quizzing your family and friends to see what they know, and share all the facts that you've learned.



## Book of Bones: 10 Record-Breaking Animals

Gabrielle Balkan and Sam Brewster | HB \$29.95

Have you ever wanted to know which animal has the biggest bone or the heaviest bone? Look no further than this spectacular book all about bones. Learn about bones from the smallest to the spikiest and everything in between. Loads of information and illustrations of all the amazing animals.



## 13 ½ Incredible Things to Know About Everything

HB \$29.99

Do you know everything? With this book – stuffed full of over 1000 facts, and filled with explosive images – you'll be well on the way! For example, did you know that humans have the same number of neck bones as a giraffe? Learn the how, why, when, and where of absolutely everything with this fun and funky book!







## Dinosaur Atlas

Lonely Planet Kids  
HB \$27.99

Explore lost prehistoric lands and the dinosaurs that roamed them. Unfold maps and lift the flaps to learn amazing facts about how they lived and where they were discovered and read up on all the latest dinosaur discoveries.



## Incredible Cabinet of Wonders

Lonely Planet Kids  
HB \$29.99

Discover an amazing collection of weird and wonderful artefacts from the world's great museums. Peek behind the 100 flaps to delve into collections from toy makers, monster hunters, sailors and archaeologists who have created their own themed cabinets and filled them with their favourite things.



## How Animals Build

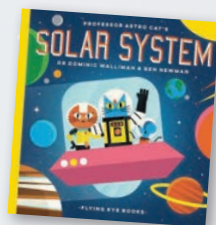
Lonely Planet Kids  
HB \$24.99

Lift the flaps to explore the world of animal architects and the homes they build. Every page is filled with so much detail. Kids can travel under the sea, through rabbit warrens and high in the treetops to learn about nature's world of construction.

## Professor Astro Cat's Solar System

Dominic Walliman and Ben Newman | HB \$24.99

Calling all junior planet explorers! Set off on a tour of our solar system with Professor Astro Cat and learn facts in a fun and informative way. This is a perfect introduction to the joys of scientific investigation. To quote Professor Astro Cat, "Remember: knowledge awaits."



## Why Don't Fish Drown?

Anna Claybourne | HB \$24.99

This is not your typical animal fact book. It's full of fascinating questions and answers encouraging kids to think about the world around them. Find out if animals need maps or if elephants ever forget. Kids will pore over this book for hours and hours, and learn so many amazing things.



Elle, Age 9

## The Amazing Animal Atlas

Dr Nick Crumpton & Gaia Bordicchia | HB \$39.99

This book is for anyone who loves animals because it tells you about the habitats and fun facts. They're all in different sections so you can discover where they live. The pictures are really detailed and you can see everything up close. This would be a perfect present if you go to the zoo in the holidays.





## Truly Tan #1

Jen Storer

MP3/CD \$19.95



## ABC Play School Story Time

Various

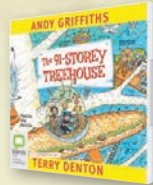
MP3/CD \$29.95



## Dragonkeeper

Carole Wilkinson

MP3/CD \$39.95



## The 91-Storey Treehouse

Andy Griffiths  
and Terry Denton

MP3/CD \$24.95



## The Wayward Witch and the Feelings Monster (Polly and Buster Book One)

Sally Rippin

MP3/CD \$24.95

[www.kidsreadingguide.com.au](http://www.kidsreadingguide.com.au)

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The books in this guide have been chosen and reviewed by members of the ABA, booksellers who use their expertise to encourage and support reading for all ages.

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Kids' Reading Guide



AUSTRALIAN  
BOOKSELLERS  
ASSOCIATION

LOVE  
YOUR  
BOOKSHOP