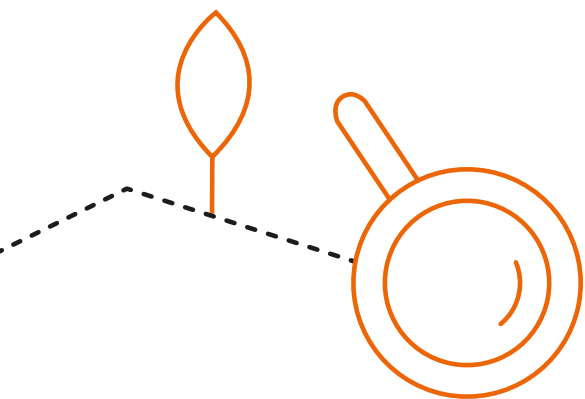


Recommended Texts
for
**Secondary
Schools**

2019





Contacts and resources

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Secondary schools interested in starting a Young Adult book club at their school to promote reading for pleasure, are encouraged to visit Facebook @PenguinTeenAustralia and Twitter and Instagram @PenguinTeenAus and join the conversation about great reads.

Contact us

If you have a question about the content in this catalogue, please email teachers@penguinrandomhouse.com.au

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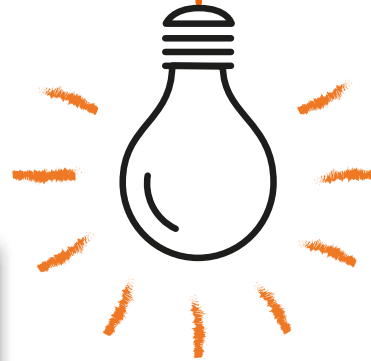


User guide

In this document you'll find a myriad of wonderful books to read! This user guide will help you find the best book for your classroom, library or maybe even a sneaky few for your personal book club.

Need to Know

Up the top you'll see the book's title, author, release date and tagline. Click on the book cover or author's photo to find more information at: penguin.com.au



The Facts

The orange text displays how this book is relevant to education including themes, capabilities, and curricular ties as well as hyperlinks to the Teachers' Resources and book club discussion questions.

ISBN

The ISBN is the unique numerical code given to each book. Use this to search for this edition online or order it through your supplier.

Author Bio

Gather insight to each book's author – their upbringing, careers, other written works and literary awards.


Extracts

Text extracts provide an example of the narration style and language of the book.

More Info

This pop out box conveys information related to this title or author, including previous related works or awards.

Years 5–7



Help Around the House
Morris Gleitzman

RELEASED SEPTEMBER 2018

The funny and moving story of a boy and his friends never losing heart in a sometimes heartless world.

Ludo helps other people. It's how he was brought up.

When Dad is elected to Federal Parliament, Ludo grabs the chance to make Australia an even better place.

But he soon discovers it's not the homeless of the national capital who most need his help – it's the rich and powerful.

'He is one of the finest examples of a writer who can make humour stem from the things that really matter in life.' The Guardian

Extract
The flight attendant glanced at the sticker on my T-shirt. It didn't have my name on it, just the letters UM, which meant Unaccompanied Minor.

Or maybe Unavailable Mother.

'Doesn't matter sir,' said the flight attendant. 'We treat everyone equally here.'

Which wasn't really true. My seat was about three times bigger than most of the others on the plane. And I'd been offered a choice between orange juice and a freshly made smoothie. When I looked over my shoulder, I saw that most of the other people on the plane hadn't been offered anything.

About the author
Morris Gleitzman grew up in England and came to Australia when he was sixteen. After university he worked for ten years as a screenwriter. Then he had a wonderful experience. He wrote a novel for young people. Now, after 40 books, he's one of Australia's most popular authors.

Morris Gleitzman has been appointed the Australian Children's Laureate for 2018–19. You can find out more about his platform as Laureate at his website, morrisgleitzman.com.


Text type
Fiction

Themes
Family and friendship, Leadership and politics, Justice, Selfishness and corruption, The media, Wealth

General capabilities
Critical and creative thinking, Ethical understanding, Literacy, Personal and social capability

Units of work
penguin.com.au/teachers

ISBN: 9780143793236
RRP: \$16.99
Pages: 208

 Page 6

Jump to Section:

[RECENT RELEASES](#) / [GRAPHIC NOVELS](#) / [POPULAR PICKS](#) / [INDEX](#)

Recent Releases





Text type
Non-fiction

Themes
Activism, Communities,
Environment, STEM,
Sustainability, Waste

General capabilities
Critical and creative thinking,
Ethical understanding,
Literacy, Personal and social
capability

Units of work
penguin.com.au/teachers

How to Save the Whole Stinkin' Planet

**Lee Constable &
James Hart**



RELEASED JUNE 2019

How to Save the Whole Stinkin' Planet will take you on a garbological adventure like no other. From diving into the rubbish bin and delving around in the landfill, to rummaging through the recycling and digging about in compost.

As a Waste Warrior in training, you will earn points and badges as you work your way through each chapter, completing activities, DIYs and eco-experiments. Whether you are conducting your own bin audit, creating a landfill model or making a mini compost heap – this Waste Warrior training will enhance your understanding of waste management and the impact our household rubbish is having on the planet.

Extract

Hello future Waste Warrior! Welcome to Waste Warrior Training! We've got a huge important mission ahead and if you succeed, you'll be a waste warrior just like me . . . I'm Captain Garbology.

If you think my name sounds SUPER-WEIRD and you're wondering what on earth it means, then feast your peepers on this fancy dictionary definition . . .

garbology

(say gah'boluhjee)

noun the analysis of garbage to determine the patterns of behaviour of the communities or individuals producing it.
(GARB(AGE) + -O- + -LOGY)

About the author

Lee Constable is the host of *Scope*, Network Ten's science and tech show for kids aged 7–13. She holds a Bachelor of Science (Honours), Bachelor of Arts and a Master of Science Communication Outreach. Lee founded, produced and hosted youth-run social justice and sustainability radio show and podcast, *SoapBox*, and is the founder of Co-Lab. In 2018 Lee was part of the largest ever all-female expedition to Antarctica, with 80 international women in STEMM, as part of the Homeward Bound leadership program.

ISBN: 9781760890261
RRP: \$19.99
Pages: 256





Text type
Fiction

Themes
Environment, Natural disasters, Politics, Relationships, Sustainability

General capabilities
Critical and creative thinking, Ethical understanding, Literacy

Units of work
penguin.com.au/teachers

Final Storm Deborah Abela

RELEASED AUGUST 2019



A year after Isabella and her friends found a home in New City, history is in danger of repeating itself.

Isabella and her friends have settled into life in New City, attending school and making new friends – including the charming, talented and eminently humble Aleksander Larson. Isabella quickly finds herself leaning on Aleksander’s friendship, a move that distances her friends, particularly Xavier, whose resentment of Aleksander seems unfounded.

Meanwhile, the world’s weather patterns are becoming increasingly erratic, and the Bureau of Weather and Climate has been failing to predict severe weather events – a failure that endangers the lives of those in New City and plunges the city into rumour and doubt. As a massive storm of ice and snow sets in, it seems the New City can no longer be the safe home its inhabitants need.

As friendships, politics and the weather become increasingly unstable, Isabella, Griffin, Xavier and their friends must decide where their loyalties lie and once again save this new city they’ve decided to call their home.

‘(Grimsdon) is a book filled with truth and heart as it tackles global issues like climate change and the more common themes of love, loss, friendship and annoying adults.’

Kids' Book Review

Extract

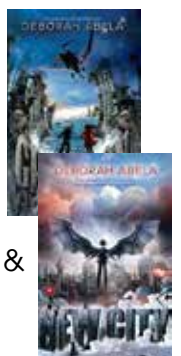
Isabella ran.

She squinted against the ice that stung her cheeks like needles as she raced across the frozen lake. The bitter wind tore into her lungs, making each panicked breath feel like a cold blade inside her chest.

About the author

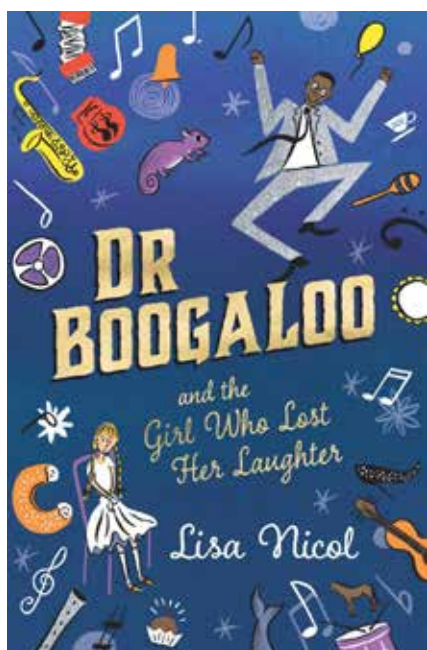
Deborah Abela is the award-winning author of the Max Remy Superspy series, Jasper Zammit (Soccer Legend) series, Ghost Club series, *The Remarkable Secret of Aurelie Bonhoffen*, *Grimsdon*, *New City*, *The Stupendously Spectacular Spelling Bee* and *The Most Marvellous Spelling Bee Mystery*.

Don't miss the first two novels in this epic series:
Grimsdon & *New City*



ISBN: 9780143794462
RRP: \$16.99
Pages: 336





Text type
Fiction

Themes
Music, Happiness,
Family, Individuality, New
experiences, Friendship

General capabilities
Critical and creative
thinking, Personal and social
capability, Literacy

Units of Work
penguin.com.au/teachers

Dr Boogaloo and the Girl Who Lost Her Laughter

Lisa Nicol



RELEASED JULY 2019

Enchanting, timeless and surprising – this extraordinary novel will touch the hearts of children and adults alike.

Dr Boogaloo was no ordinary doctor. Not at all like the one you might visit if you had a sore tummy. No, Dr Boogaloo was a very different type of doctor. He treated folks who suffered from rather unusual complaints. And how did he treat them? Why, with the most powerful medicine known to mankind . . . Music!

Blue was no ordinary girl. For starters, her name was Blue. But what was truly extraordinary about Blue was the fact that she hadn't laughed for 712 days. Not a hee hee, a ho ho or even a tiny tee hee.

Can Dr Boogaloo compose a cure before Blue loses her laughter forever?

Extract

As always, the waiting room at Dr Boogaloo's was full. A boy wearing just a pair of underpants wriggled in his chair like a chopped-off lizard's tail, spraying the room with a machine-gun laugh.

HA-HA-HA-HA-HA-HA ... HA-HA-HA-HA ... HA-HA-HA-HA-HA-HA!

Next to him sat a boy holding a phone to his nose, blabbering some sort of weird gobbledygook. Stuffed in his left ear was a banana; in his right, a cheese sandwich.

About the author

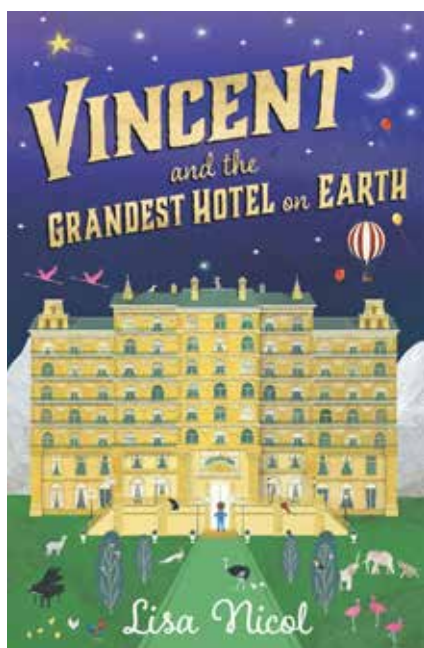
Lisa Nicol is a writer and documentary-maker. Her feature documentary *Wide Open Sky*, about a children's choir in outback NSW, won the Audience Award for Best Documentary at the 2015 Sydney Film Festival. Her first children's book *The Ballad of Dexi Lee* was illustrated by artist Lucy Culliton. Her second children's book *Dr Boogaloo and the Girl Who Lost Her Laughter* is currently being adapted as a musical for the stage. Lisa lives on the east coast of Australia with her three children and a dog who totally stinks.

ISBN: 9781760892364

RRP: \$14.99

Pages: 192





Vincent and the Grandest Hotel on Earth

Lisa Nicol

RELEASED JULY 2019



Warning: this book includes insanely cute pocket dogs, travelling by llama or jet pack, chocolate fountains and shoes that play Bach.

Perched high on the snowy slopes of the Mabombo Ranges lies The Grandest Hotel on Earth. It's wilder than the African savanna, more fantastical than Disneyland and more magical than Shangri-la.

So when ordinary eleven-year-old Vincent meets the hotel's young Florence he sets off on a path leading into his most wondrous dreams.

But of course, dreams have a funny way of taking strange and surprising turns and, before long, Vincent is torn between right and wrong, friendship and family and the most enticing of desires – to see into the future . . .

'So alive with magic and wonder . . . simply impossible to resist!'
Books + Publishing

Extract

Not many people would describe Vincent's life as glorious, but Vincent's family was like that. They delighted in the small things. Because they had to. There *were* no BIG things. No big events or adventures or awards. Well, not until THAT MOMENT anyway.

'Here,' said Vincent's dad, handing him the shoe-cleaning kit. 'Pa would have wanted you to have this. It would make him happy.'

About the author

Lisa Nicol is a writer and documentary-maker. Her feature documentary *Wide Open Sky*, about a children's choir in outback NSW, won the Audience Award for Best Documentary at the 2015 Sydney Film Festival. Her first children's book *The Ballad of Dexi Lee* was illustrated by artist Lucy Culliton. Her second children's book *Dr Boogaloo and the Girl Who Lost Her Laughter* is currently being adapted as a musical for the stage. Lisa lives on the east coast of Australia with her three children and a dog who totally stinks.

Text type
Fiction

Themes

Identity, Kindness and acceptance, Friendship, Loss and grief, Humour, Creative thinking, Imagination, Magic, Responsibility and resilience

General capabilities

Literacy, Critical and Creative thinking, Personal and Social Capability, Ethical Understanding

Units of work

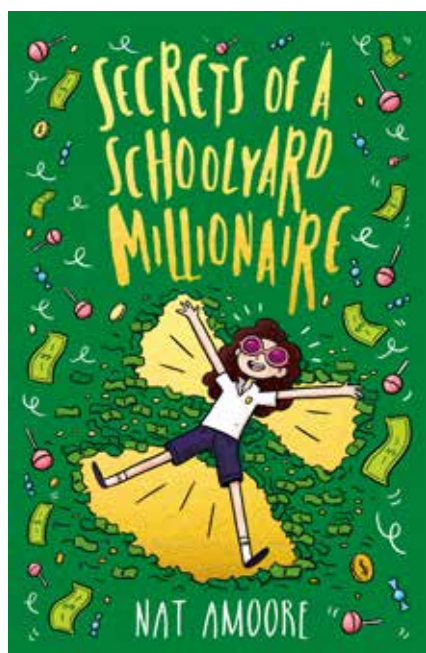
penguin.com.au/teachers
penguin.com.au/articles

ISBN: 9781760890681

RRP: \$16.99

Pages: 256





Secrets of a Schoolyard Millionaire

Nat Amore



RELEASED JUNE 2019

The hilarious story of one bag of cash, two best friends and a whole lot of trouble.

Finding a million dollars in your backyard – every kid's dream, right? That's what me and my best friend Toby thought too.

Jumping castles at school. Lollipops for our adoring fans. Wearing sunglasses indoors ('cos that's what all the millionaires do).

There's a lot you can get with a million dollars . . . including a whole lot of trouble.

Extract

Sometimes you learn a lesson . . . and sometimes you have to teach yourself one.

The first Monday in April happened a bit like this. It might sound like a scene from a movie, but that's because it was like a scene from a movie.

I'm walking down the school corridor -- I'm pretty sure in slow motion -- with a look of determination on my face. I always look determined. The other kids stand in front of the lockers, gawking at me as I pass. I ignore them, staring straight ahead. There's theme music playing in my head -- 'Money' by Pink Floyd. Don't know it? Google it. Great song. Mum and Dad only listen to Gold 104 at home. They say music was so much better before I was born. I totally agree.

About the author

Nat Amore is a writer who is passionate about encouraging kids to read, write and explore their imagination without boundaries. With a background in writing for screen, she wrote and directed international award-winning short film *Elemenopee* and has a feature film screenplay and a kids' TV series in development. Nat was a recipient of the CBCA Maurice Saxby Creative Development Program for 2018. In February 2018, Nat (along with fellow hosts Kate and Liz) launched kidlit podcast *One More Page*, which was a finalist in the 'Best Newcomer' category for the 2018 Australian Podcast Awards.

Text type
Fiction

Themes
Humour, School, Friends,
Family, Adventure,
Entrepreneurship

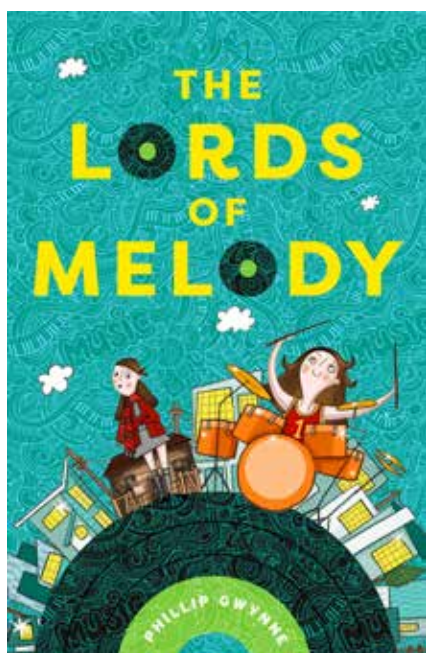
General capabilities
Critical and creative thinking,
Literacy, Personal and social
capability

Cross-curriculum priorities
Literacy – Creating Texts,
Number and Algebra
– Money and Financial
Matters, Number and
Algebra – Place Value

Units of work
childrensbooksdaily.com

ISBN: 9780143796374
RRP: \$14.99
Pages: 288





Text type
Fiction

Themes
Music, Family, Belonging,
Resilience, Friendship, Peer
pressure, Sport

General capabilities
Literacy, Critical and creative
thinking, Personal and
social capability, Ethical
understanding

Units of work
penguin.com.au/teachers

The Lords of Melody

Phillip Gwynne

RELEASED SEPTEMBER 2019



The Lord family live in the worst house on the best street. It might have been different if Suzi Lord's rock 'n' roll parents, Strum and Miss Katy, hadn't stumbled on their way to stardom but after one hit single in Finland, it's been Lentil Slop Thing for dinner ever since.

But life is about to get a lot more interesting at 92 Melody Street. Renting out their spare room on ZedBedZ seemed like a good idea but with the ghost of a grumpy drummer, a long-lost grandfather as their first guest, angry opposition from a residents action group, AND a broken leg in the first practice match of the soccer season, Suzi ain't havin' much of a rockin' good time.

Then she dares to pick up a set of drum sticks and things really get wild.

Extract

'I *am* going on the school trip to France,' said my older sister, Janis Lord Blessington-Smythe, in her posh voice.

Her real name is plain Janis Lord - she'd acquired both the posh voice and the Blessington-Smythe when she got her scholarship.

Strum, my dad, looked up from the imaginary guitar he'd been playing, practising minor chords. Miss Katy, my mum, continued serving out the Lentil Slop Thing that Strum had made for dinner.

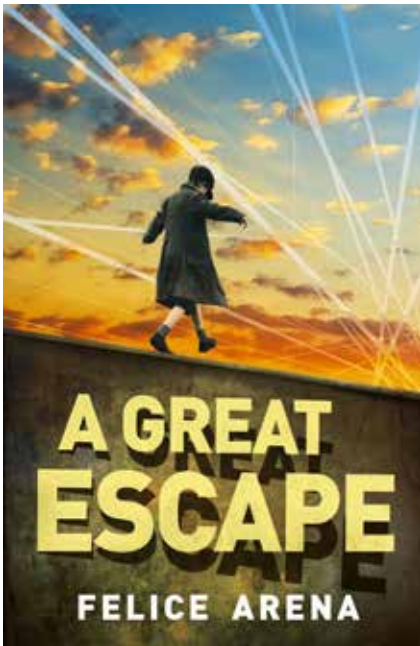
'You are SO not going,' I said.

About the author

Phillip Gwynne's first novel *Deadly Unna?* was a literary hit and was made into the feature film *Australian Rules* for which Phillip won an AFI award. The sequel, *Nukkin Ya*, was also published to great acclaim. He writes for a wide range of age groups from picture books such as *Brothers From a Different Mother* and junior fiction such as *Jetty Rats* and *Michael* in the *Stuff Happens* series, to the young adult novel *Swerve*, shortlisted for many awards amongst them the 2010 Prime Minister's Award and the Golden Inky.

ISBN: 9780143796459
RRP: \$16.99
Pages: 272





A Great Escape

Felice Arena

RELEASED MARCH 2019



Set in Cold War Germany, *A Great Escape* is a story of true-life heroism and the unbreakable bonds of family.

Text type
Fiction

Themes
European history, Personal and social ethics, Relationships, Society, Family, Friendship, Bravery

General capabilities
Critical and creative thinking, Ethical understanding, Literacy

Units of work
penguin.com.au/teachers

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 . . .

'I cannot recommend it highly enough for readers from around ten years upwards and think it would be a particularly apt read for older students who are embarking on the study of this period of history.' Sue Warren, secondary school teacher-librarian

Extract

Peter is riding as fast as he can. He stands out of his seat and crunches down on the pedals. He steers his bike towards a long plank of wood propped up on a small stack of bricks. It's the perfect launching ramp.

He hollers as he makes contact with the plank and rides up the ramp at top speed.

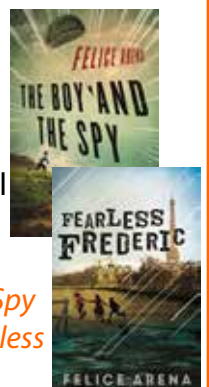
'YAAAAA!' Peter yanks the handlebars up towards his chest to get some lift. He keeps pedalling, then he's airborne! Flying!

The wheels hit the cobblestones with a bouncy thud. Peter almost loses balance as he kicks back on his right pedal and slams the brakes.

About the author

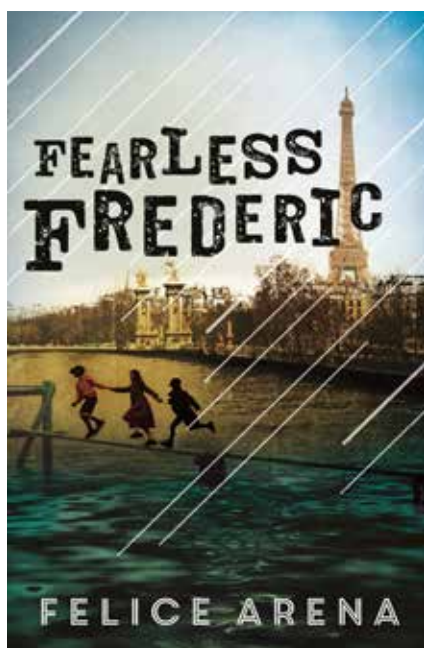
Felice Arena is the author and creator of many popular and award-winning children's books for all ages, including the acclaimed historical adventures *The Boy and the Spy* and *Fearless Frederic*, the bestselling Specky Magee books and the popular Andy Roid and Sporty Kids series.

Don't miss Felice's other historical novels, *The Boy and the Spy* and *Fearless Frederic*



ISBN: 9780143794042
RRP: \$16.99
Pages: 176





Fearless Frederic

Felice Arena

RELEASED APRIL 2018



A story of friendship and heart-racing adventure – a perfect follow up to the acclaimed *The Boy and the Spy*.

Text type
Fiction

Themes
History - European,
Relationships, Society,
Personal and social ethics

General capabilities
Language, Literature,
Literacy, Critical and creative
thinking, Personal and
social capability, Ethical
understanding

Units of work
penguin.com.au/teachers

When the river rises and the city of Paris begins to disappear under water, Frederic decides to help those who can't help themselves. But as his heroic acts escalate, so does the danger. Frederic will have to battle an escaped zoo animal and fight off pickpockets and looters but, as the waters subside, can he find justice for his father and find out what courage really means?

'This is a wonderful book for younger readers, recreating a fascinating moment in French history.'* *Daily Telegraph

Extract

The hall is busy. Thirty big shirtless men are fighting one another in pairs.

The sounds of their grunting, heaving and puffing fill the space as they kick, lunge and punch. With each offensive strike, their broad shoulders and back muscles contract.

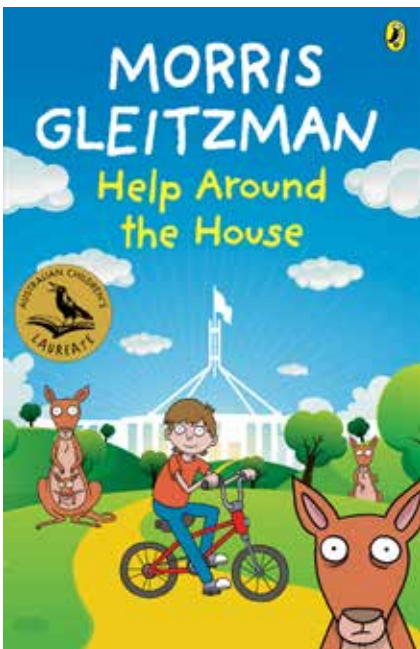
Frederic looks at them with envy. And then looks down at his skinny legs. Perhaps one day he will be strong as they are.

About the author

Felice Arena is the author and creator of many popular and award-winning children's books for all ages, including the acclaimed historical adventures *The Boy and the Spy* and *Fearless Frederic*, the bestselling Specky Magee books and the popular Andy Roid and Sporty Kids series.

ISBN: 9780143786757
RRP: \$16.99
Pages: 176





Text type
Fiction

Themes

Family and friendship,
Leadership and politics,
Justice, Selfishness and
corruption, The media,
Wealth

General capabilities

Critical and creative thinking,
Ethical understanding,
literacy, Personal and social
capability

Units of work

penguin.com.au/teachers

ISBN: 9780143793236
RRP: \$16.99
Pages: 208



Help Around the House

Morris Gleitzman



RELEASED SEPTEMBER 2018

The funny and moving story of a boy and his friends never losing heart in a sometimes heartless world.

Ludo helps other people. It's how he was brought up.

When Dad is elected to Federal Parliament, Ludo grabs the chance to make Australia an even better place.

But he soon discovers it's not the homeless of the national capital who most need his help – it's the rich and powerful.

'He is one of the finest examples of a writer who can make humour stem from the things that really matter in life.' *The Guardian*

Extract

The flight attendant glanced at the sticker on my T-shirt. It didn't have my name on it, just the letters UM, which meant Unaccompanied Minor.

Or maybe Unavailable Mother.

'Doesn't matter, sir,' said the flight attendant. 'We treat everyone equally here.'

Which wasn't really true. My seat was about three times bigger than most of the others on the plane. And I'd been offered a choice between orange juice and a freshly made smoothie. When I looked over my shoulder, I saw that most of the other people on the plane hadn't been offered anything.

About the author

Morris Gleitzman grew up in England and came to Australia when he was sixteen. After university he worked for ten years as a screenwriter. Then he had a wonderful experience. He wrote a novel for young people. Now, after 40 books, he's one of Australia's most popular authors.

Morris Gleitzman was appointed as the Australian Children's Laureate for 2018–19.

You can find out more at his website:
morrisgleitzman.com



Ting Ting the Ghosthunter

Gabrielle Wang



RELEASED SEPTEMBER 2018

The sequel to the award-winning *Ghost in My Suitcase*.

Text type
Fiction

Themes
Characterisation, Chinese culture, Cultural diversity, Family, Loss and grief

General capabilities
Critical and creative thinking, Ethical understanding, Intercultural understanding, Literacy, Personal and social capability

Cross-curriculum priorities
Asia and Australia's engagement with Asia

Units of work
penguin.com.au/teachers

Thirteen-year-old Ting Ting has learned the ancient skills and art of ghost hunting from her adopted grandmother, Por Por, a famous ghost hunter. But Ting Ting is sick of capturing harmless 'fat belly' ghosts, and when a desperate plea for help comes for Por Por, Ting Ting recklessly decides to take matters into her own hands and prove that she is a true ghost hunter. But what Ting Ting discovers is much more dangerous than she had thought. Can Ting Ting conquer her own pride to save Por Por and the villagers before it's too late?

Ting Ting the Ghosthunter is an evocative junior novel, filled with magical realism just right for readers from 9-12. [Read Plus](#)

Extract

As I move the oar from side to side, a silver moon shivers in our wake. Por sits in the bow of the boat, her hand on her weapons bag, back straight, head alert. The canal water is silky black.

Our job is to capture a ghost that's been haunting Kissing Bridge. The story goes that the famous poet Li Bai once stood on this bridge, looked up at the moon and poetry sprang from his lips as if the words had come down from heaven. Lovers think that if they kiss under the bridge they'll be happy for the rest of their lives. It's a huge business for the water taxis. But lately a ghost has been capsizing boats and terrorising the customers.

About the author

Gabrielle Wang is an author and illustrator born in Melbourne of Chinese heritage. Her maternal great grandfather came to Victoria during the Gold Rush and her father from Shanghai. Her stories are a blend of Chinese and Western culture with a touch of fantasy.

ISBN: 9780143787334
RRP: \$16.99
Pages: 176





Text type
Fiction

Themes

Connectedness, Friendship,
Independence, Competition

General capabilities

Critical and creative thinking,
Literacy, Personal and social
capability

Go!

Steve Worland

RELEASED NOVEMBER 2019

**Now a major Australian motion picture
- in cinemas January 2019.**



Go big. Go fast. Go together. 5, 4, 3, 2, 1 – Go!

Fifteen-year-old Jack has just discovered the one thing he loves, and is really good at: go kart racing. With the support of his mentor, Patrick, an old race-car driver with a dark past, and his best mates Colin and Mandy, Jack must learn to control his reckless streak. Only then will he be in with a chance to defeat the best drivers in Australia, including his ruthless rival Dean, and win the National title.

Extract

Jack sits in the passenger seat and watches the sixty kilometre an hour speed limit sign slip past by the side of road. He then glances at the old Falcon's speedometer. The station wagon is doing just under fifty kilometres an hour. It seems a bit slow, considering there are no other cars around and it's sunny without a cloud on the horizon. In other words, perfect conditions to open up the old beast and see what it can do. 'Mum, if we were going any slower, we'd be in reverse. I can drive if you'd like?'

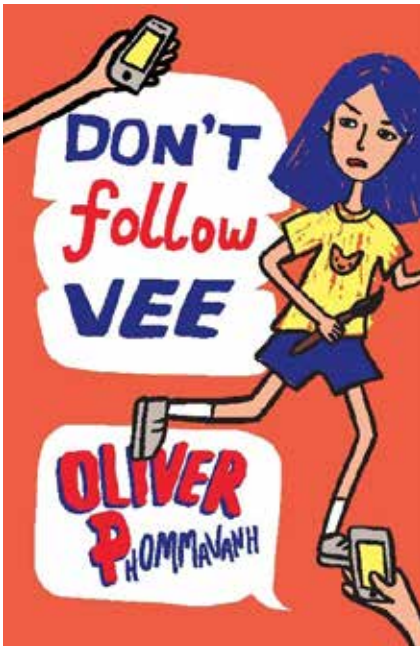
From behind the steering wheel, Christie glances at her fifteen-year-old son. Her expression might be pleasant but her words are sharp: 'Like? No. No, I do not like. You don't drive until you have your licence. We're not going through that again. Are we clear?'

About the author

Steve Worland has worked extensively in film and television in Australia and the USA. He wrote the screenplay for the smash hit Australian family film *Paper Planes* with director Robert Connolly, won the ACCTA award for best original screenplay for the same film, and adapted the movie into a bestselling novel for young readers.

ISBN: 9781760893361
RRP: \$16.99
Pages: 256





Don't Follow Vee

Oliver Phommavanh

RELEASED MAY 2019



100,000 followers on Instagram – a young girl's dream, right? Wrong! Please DON'T FOLLOW VEE!

Text type

Fiction

Themes

Family and friendships,
Identity and culture, Social
media, School

General capabilities

Critical and creative thinking,
Literacy

Cross-Curriculum priorities

Asia and Australia's
engagement with Asia

Units of work

penguin.com.au/teachers

I'm not on social media, but everyone knows all about my life – from birth – thanks to Mum's Instagram, *The Chronicles of Vee*. It used to be a bit of fun, but when we got to 100,000 followers, Mum started to take it way too seriously.

My mission?

Stop my mum posting everything about my life.

How?

1. Become Anti-Vee and make my life unfollowable.
2. Make Mum's life more exciting than mine so she posts stuff about herself instead.

Easy, right?

That is, until Anti-Vee becomes more popular than the real Vee. Can I ever make Mum cool enough to start her own Instagram or am I doomed to have everyone following me forever?!

Extract

When I wake up in the morning, the first thing I always see is Mum's phone.

'Morning, Vee!' Mum takes a snap. 'Mmmm, I need to take that again. Come on, Vee, be natural.'

I yawn and turn to my side. It's unnatural for a twelve-year-old girl to be awake this early. I close my eyes and hear a few clicks.

'Ah that's better,' Mum says. 'What a normal start to the day.'

About the author

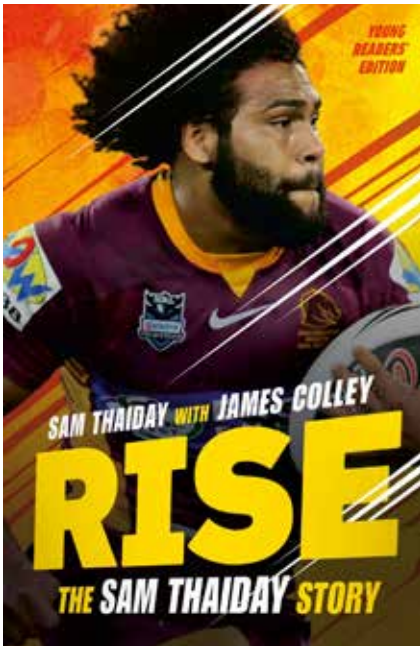
Oliver is a young Thai-Australian writer for children. He has worked as a primary school teacher and now spends his time writing and sharing his writing passion with kids and engaging them with humour.

ISBN: 9780143505747

RRP: \$16.99

Pages: 192





Text type
Non-fiction

Themes
Football, Indigenous
Australia, Learning from
mistakes, Role models

General capabilities
Critical and creative thinking,
Ethical understanding,
Intercultural understanding,
Literacy

Cross-curriculum priorities
Aboriginal and Torres Strait
Islander histories and cultures

ISBN: 9780143790419
RRP: \$16.99
Pages: 192



Rise: The Sam Thaiday Story

Sam Thaiday with James Colley

RELEASED FEBRUARY 2019

A junior autobiography of one of rugby league's greatest characters who has always risen to the occasion, no matter the challenge.

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 a 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!

'No school library in the Eastern states would be complete without this paperback autobiography complete with glossy photos and a Fast Facts section.' *Read Plus*

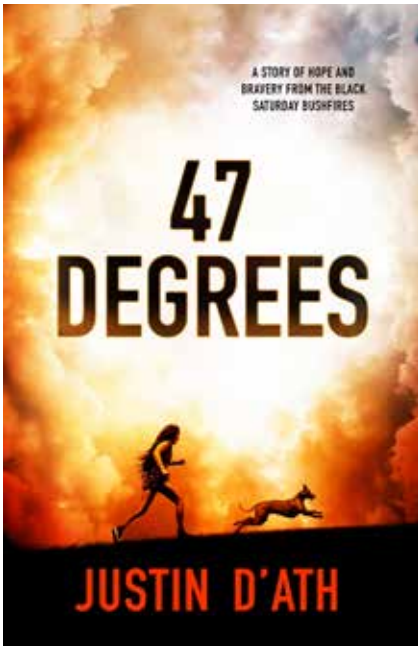
Extract

I wish as a kid that I read more books . . . so now you have the perfect opportunity to start with *Rise*.

Education is the key to doing whatever you want to do in your life – it has taken me many many years to figure this out, so why not learn from other people.

. . . Hopefully the words and stories in this book can help you aspire to fulfil and chase your own dreams. Essentially this book is about a young kid who had a dream, who had a goal, a want to play the sport he loved professionally for a living as a full time job – and I was one of those lucky kids. Through hard work, dedication and learning the tools of the trade, I was able to be very successful within my chosen career. And my journey is not over yet . . .

Peace
Sam



Text type
Fiction

Themes
Adventure, Bravery,
Community, Family, Identity,
Place, Resilience, Survival

General capabilities
Critical and creative thinking,
Literacy

Units of work
penguin.com.au/teachers

47 Degrees Justin D'Ath

RELEASED JANUARY 2019



A fast-paced and poignant novel of survival for young readers by Justin D'Ath that draws on his own experience of escaping the 2009 Black Saturday bushfires.

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.

'An action-adventure that rings with truth . . . a fantastic read for ages 10 and up. 5 stars.' *Books + Publishing*

Extract

Zeelie's parents are arguing. She can't hear her mother's side of the conversation, but from the stubborn look on her father's face as he holds the phone to his ear, Zeelie knows who's going to win.

'That's not what we decided, Jasmine,' he says, using her mother's full name instead of the usual, Jas. 'Remember our bushfire plan? Stay and defend.'

He falls silent while Zeelie's mother says her bit on the other end of the line, probably something like: 'That's your fire plan, Dan – I've always said we should leave.'

Zeelie's father runs a hand through his already messed up hair. He's sweating, and no wonder – it's like an oven outside and he's just come indoors. The lunchtime news bulletin on the radio said it was 47 degrees in Melbourne, which is just over the hills. His eyes meet Zeelie's.

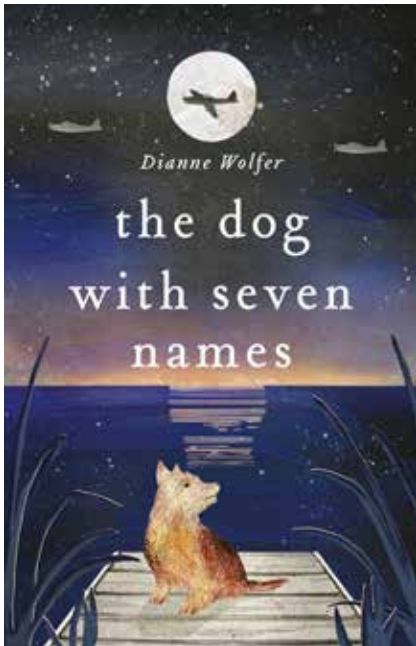
About the author

Justin D'Ath wrote his first children's book in 1996 and to date he has published over 50 books.

The Teachers' Resources for *47 Degrees* contain photos taken in the aftermath of the 2009 Black Saturday bushfires.

ISBN: 9780143789079
RRP: \$16.99
Pages: 256





The Dog with Seven Names

Dianne Wolfer

RELEASED JULY 2018



The heart-warming story of a dog in a time of war.

Text type
Fiction

Themes
Animals, Bravery, Historical, Place, Survival, War

General capabilities
Critical and creative thinking, Intercultural understanding, Ethical understanding, Literacy

Cross-Curriculum priorities
Asia and Australia's relationship with Asia

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, the girl who loved her best of all. Will she ever find her again?

'This is a lovely depiction of the human and animal toll of war.'
Books + Publishing

'(A story) of spirit and adventure.' *Daily Telegraph*

Extract

My earliest memories are of being shoved and trampled by little paws. I was the runt, the last pup of our litter, and I struggled to reach my mother's warm milk. When I rolled out of our birthing box onto the verandah, I was too weak to climb back in. Wings flapped around my still-closed eyes. I felt pecking and smelt the sharp scent of blood . . .

If Elsie hadn't found me I might not have survived. She shooed away the crows and held me close.

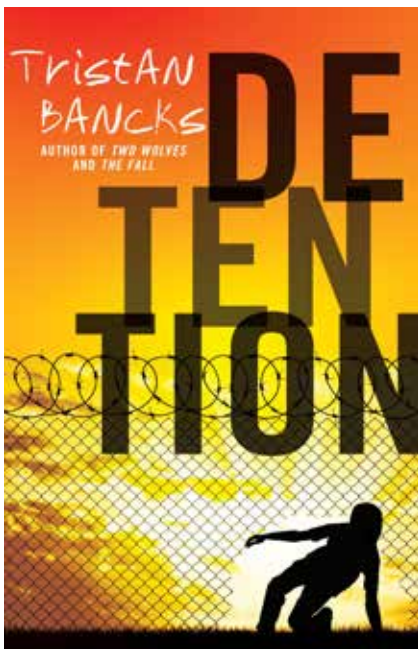
About the author

Dianne Wolfer is the author of more than 15 books for teenagers and young readers, many of which have received multiple awards.

The Dog with Seven Names is told from the dog's perspective.

ISBN: 9780143787457
RRP: \$16.99
Pages: 240





Text type
Fiction

Themes
Adventure, Asylum seekers,
Bravery, Detention, Family,
Mystery, Refugees, Survival

General capabilities
Critical and creative thinking,
Ethical understanding,
Literacy

Cross-curriculum priorities
Asia and Australia's
engagement with Asia

Units of work
penguin.com.au/teachers

ISBN: 9780143791799
RRP: \$16.99
Pages: 240



Detention

Tristan Bancks

RELEASED JULY 2019



**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? Dob 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?

Extract

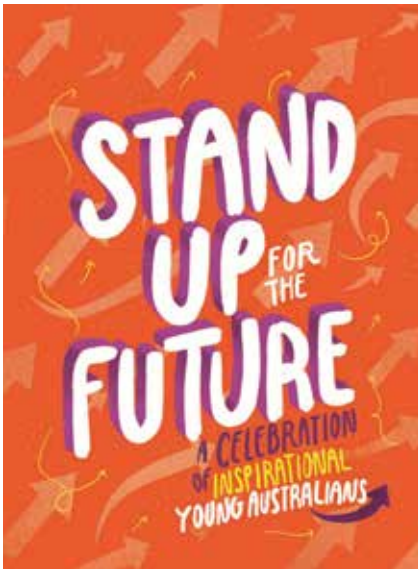
Sima watches the man carefully as he snips fence wires one by one. He's skinny, nervous, his shaved head slick with sweat and glowing silver in the moonlight. His tattooed hands squeeze the sharp cutters closed. The gap looks almost wide enough to get through now.

Sima and her family are pressed to the rough, cold ground among about fifty others. They lie in the gap between two tall fences designed to keep them in. The outer fence is the only thing separating them from freedom. They wait. They've become very good at that.

About the author

Tristan Bancks is a children's and teen author with a background in acting and filmmaking. His books and short films have won a number of awards. Tristan is excited by the future of storytelling and inspiring others to create.

Tristan worked with the Refugee Advice and Casework Service, the NSW Service for the Treatment and Rehabilitation of Torture and Trauma Survivors and the Refugee Council of Australia to build this story.



Stand Up for the Future

RELEASED APRIL 2019

Let's stand up and acknowledge the young Aussies who are using their actions and voices to change our world for the better.

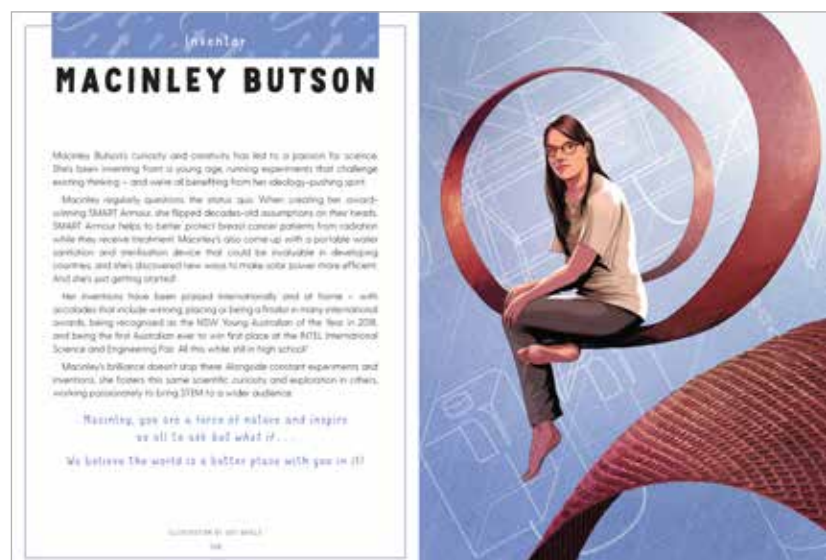
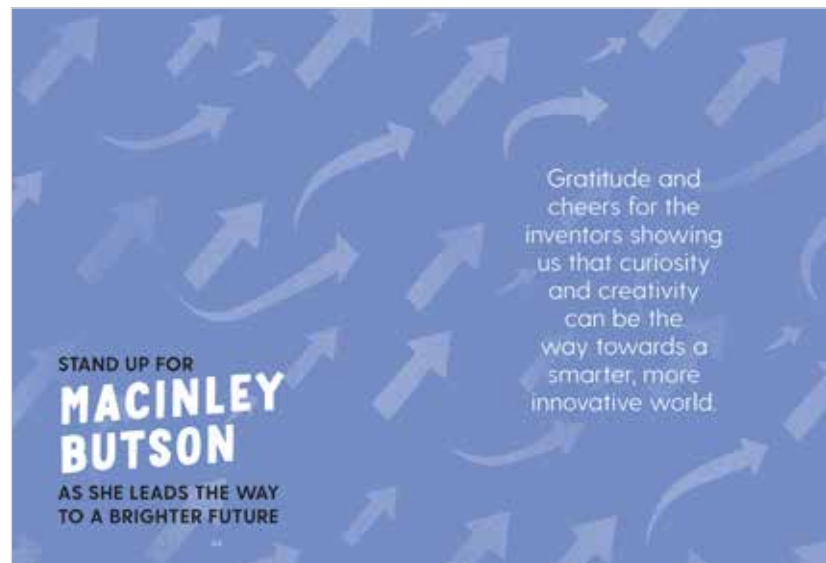
From slam poet Solli Raphael to gender equality advocate Caitlin Figueiredo, soccer star Sam Kerr and youth worker Zack Bryers, this is a book about young people, for everyone. Through activism, innovation, giving back and leading by example, these game changers are building a brighter tomorrow.

Text type
Non-fiction

General capabilities
Critical and creative thinking,
Ethical understanding,
Intercultural understanding,
Literacy

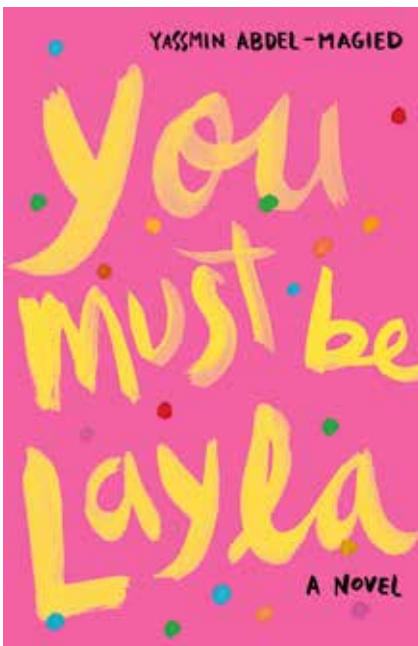
Units of work
penguin.com.au/teachers

For more profiles on extraordinary Australians, don't miss *Shout Out to the Girls & High Five to the Boys!*



ISBN: 9780143794394
RRP: \$29.99
Pages: 208





You Must Be Layla

Yassmin Abdel-Magied

RELEASED MARCH 2019



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?

Text type
Fiction

Themes
Bullying, Courage, Differences, Forgiveness, Helping others, Humour, Language, Multiculturalism, Opportunities, Persistence, Power, Religious beliefs, Social stereotypes

General capabilities
Critical and creative thinking, Ethical understanding, Literacy

Units of work
penguin.com.au/teachers

Also available as an [audio book](#)

ISBN: 9780143788515
RRP: \$16.99
Pages: 288



Page 22

Layla's mind goes a million miles a minute, so does her mouth – unfortunately her better judgement can take a while to catch up! 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.

'Activist Yassmin Abdel-Magied's first foray into children's writing is brimming with social justice passion, punctuated on every page with millennial slang that will delight internet-savvy kids.'
Books + Publishing

Extract

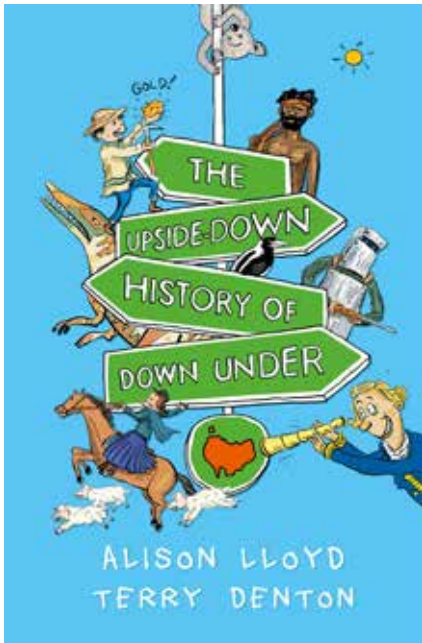
The new school uniform included a cream straw hat, which was giving Layla grief. She tried to squeeze the un-hijab-friendly piece on top of her headscarf, but it looked ridiculous. She giggled self-consciously. Oh yeah, that was the other thing. Layla was going to be the first person ever to wear a headscarf at MMGS. The only one! WILD!

She had found that out during the acceptance meeting before school started. MMGS had asked Layla and her parents to come to the school for it, and that balmy evening the Sudanese family walked in to find a roomful of old men in suits sitting around a huge, dark mahogany table.

About the author

Yassmin Abdel-Magied is a Sudanese-born Australian mechanical engineer, writer and social advocate.

Yassmin has delivered keynotes in over 20 countries on unconscious bias and leadership. Her TED talk, *What Does My Headscarf Mean to You?*, has been viewed over two million times.



The Upside-down History of Down Under

Alison Lloyd & Terry Denton

RELEASED OCTOBER 2018

The un-put-down-able history of Down Under – unexpected, heroic and sometimes tragic. But never ever boring.

Text type
Non-fiction

Themes
Aboriginal Australia,
Environment, Explorers and
colonisation, Feminism,
Geography, Historical identity,
Multiculturalism, Resilience,
Unionism

General capabilities
Critical and creative thinking,
Ethical understanding,
Intercultural understanding,
Literacy

Cross-curriculum priorities
Aboriginal and Torres
Strait Islander histories and
cultures, Asia and Australia's
engagement with Asia

Units of work
penguin.com.au/teachers

ISBN: 9780143788669
RRP: \$24.99
Pages: 304



Page 23

The story of Australia starts with a piece of land that went for a swim. About 200 million years ago it floated away from Africa. Very, very slowly. It was home to dinosaurs and giant animals, then the first Australians showed up and got comfortable.

And for a long time this wild and wonderful land was a mystery to the rest of the world. Until the English decided it would make the best jail ever . . .

Funny, heroic and tragic – the story of our country from prehistory to federation.

Extract

If you ever wonder how we got to be Australia . . . This is the book for you. If you ever wanted to go back to the dinosaurs or the Dreaming . . . This is the book for you. If you've heard about convicts, captains or colonies – but you don't know how they fit together . . . If you love to read about rebels, riches, rights and wrongs, or adventures across the seas . . . If you like truth that's stranger than fiction . . . This is the book for you.

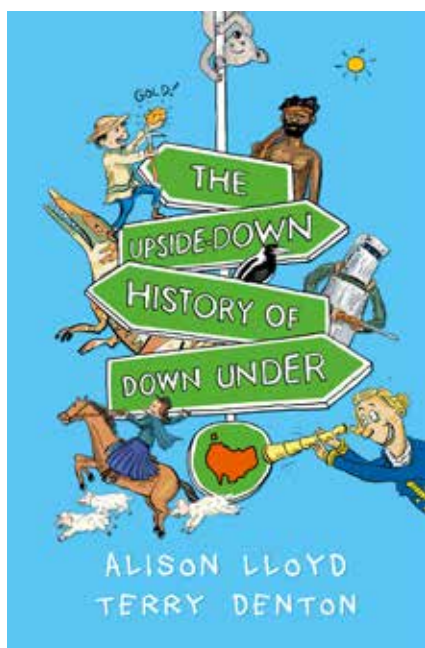
About the creators

Alison Lloyd and Terry Denton are the creators of the history books *Wicked Warriors and Evil Emperors* and *Dragons, Devils and Rebels*. Individually, Alison has written such books as *Do You Dare: Bushranger's Boys*, *Our Australian Girl: The Letty Stories*, and *Year of the Tiger* and its sequel *Battle of the Jade Horse*, while Terry has written or illustrated a vast number of amazing books, including the world-famous *Treehouse* series (with Andy Griffiths) and the picture books *Jandamarra* and *Boomerang and Bat* (with Mark Greenwood).

Winner of the 2019 NSW Premier's History Awards in the category of Young People's History Prize.

Shortlisted for the 2019 Australian Book Design Awards in the category of Best Designed Non-fiction Book.

See the next page for samples of internal spreads.



Text type
Non-fiction

Themes

Aboriginal Australia, Environment, Explorers and colonisation, Feminism, Geography, Historical identity, Multiculturalism, Resilience, Unionism

General capabilities

Critical and creative thinking, Ethical understanding, Intercultural understanding, Literacy

Cross-curriculum priorities

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories and cultures, Asia and Australia's engagement with Asia

Units of work

penguin.com.au/teachers

ISBN: 9780143788669

RRP: \$24.99

Pages: 304



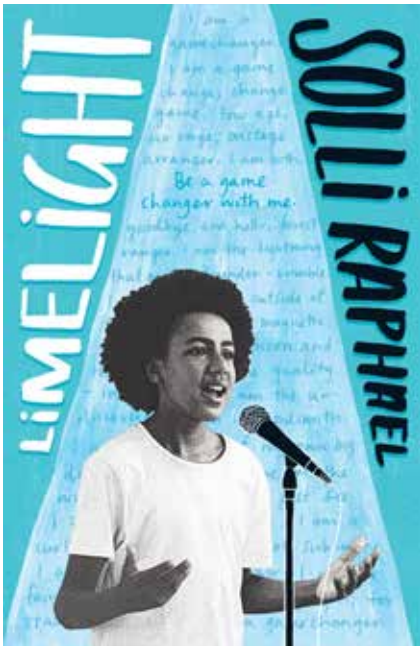
The Upside-down History of Down Under

Alison Lloyd & Terry Denton

RELEASED OCTOBER 2018

The un-put-down-able history of Down Under – unexpected, heroic and sometimes tragic. But never ever boring.





Limelight

Solli Raphael

RELEASED SEPTEMBER 2018



Age is no barrier to creating poetry that inspires social change and positive action.
‘The future needs you and me to create equality across all levels of humanity.’ – Solli Raphael

Text type

Poetry and non-fiction

Themes

Activism, Bullying, Cultural diversity, Differing viewpoints, Environment and sustainability, Identity, Language, Making a difference, Media, Poetry, Spoken text

General capabilities

Critical and creative thinking, Ethical understanding, Literacy

Cross-curriculum priorities

Sustainability

Units of work

penguin.com.au/teachers

Also available as an [audio book](#)

ISBN: 9780143793762

RRP: \$16.99

Pages: 128



Page 25

Limelight is a unique collection of slam poetry paired with inspirational writing techniques. With over 30 original poems in different forms, the book features the viral video sensation *Australian Air*, which has been viewed 3.6 million times via Facebook. Solli's work tackles current social concerns for his generation, such as sustainability and social equality, all the while amplifying his uplifting message of hope.

The book includes several introductory chapters looking at traditional poetry forms and slam poetry, as well as tips on developing writing ideas and performing. Filled with his own experiences of creating poetry and speaking in public, such as Solli's top 10 ways to manage writer's block, this book engages kids on their level and encourages them to speak up for a better future of their own.

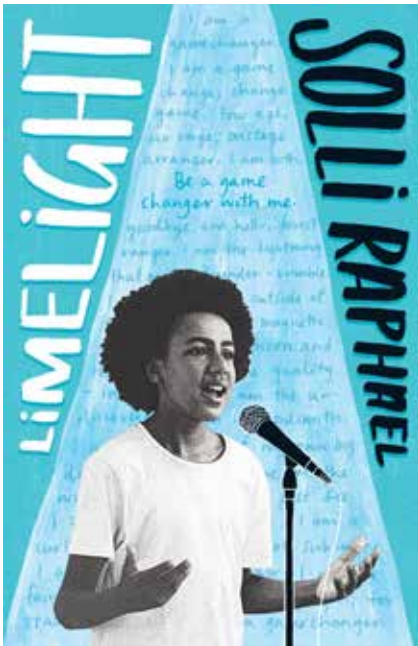
As a voice of his generation, and at a time when youth movements worldwide hold much importance, this extraordinary book showcases creativity and the power of social consciousness.

About the author

At 12, Solli Raphael was the youngest winner of the Australian Poetry Slam held at Sydney Opera House annually. A budding humanitarian, he hopes to become an inspirational leader among his peers. Solli enjoys writing powerful and emotive poetry and performing pieces to instigate change in the areas he feels are critical for attention and action such as social equality, the environment and animal protection.

Now 14, Solli is keen to use the platforms of performing and writing to tackle current social issues – big and small. He wants to encourage his generation to participate in conversations about issues that affect their lives, sending out the challenge, 'Be a game changer with me!'

See the next page for sample spreads, including Solli's poetry, his tips for budding poets, and lessons he's learnt throughout his journey.



Limelight Solli Raphael

RELEASED SEPTEMBER 2018



Age is no barrier to creating poetry that inspires social change and positive action.
‘The future needs you and me to create equality across all levels of humanity.’ – Solli Raphael

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Activity 1: write about a battle using the characteristics you would choose to describe a particular family member, like your mother or grandfather.
Activity 2: write about a bicycle but describe it like you could describe a cat.

WRITING PROMPTS

Like figurative speech, writing prompts are another way to stimulate ideas and can enhance the writing process for any poet or writer. A writing prompt is an idea or sentence beginning that someone else has written and you have to finish that sentence off.

I used writing prompts quite a lot when I was starting out with my poetry. The poems I keep or consider final aren't the ones with writing prompts, but the prompts are what the ideas began with and they helped to get my creative thinking hat on.

Here's a list of prompts that I have created just for you. There are sentence starters and themes to get you underway with your poetry.

- The moon and the sea...
- A flower that has only three days to live
- Falling off my bike was like...

33

pocket and a pencil in my afro because ideas seem to flow best when I write them down by hand, but I use my phone and laptop at times too. And at the end of the day, I transfer my notes/ideas/poems to my journal. I have a lot of journals now and they're part of my everyday life.

BRAINSTORMING

A good way to bring about ideas is to put some time to writing creatively by brainstorming at the same time every day. Just like how some people walk the dog at 7 am every morning or others go to the gym for a 4 pm workout, I like to be methodical when it comes to new works. Inspiration can jump out at you anytime, but dedicating time daily helps to grow your inspiration muscles. And when they get strong enough through creative writing training, you'll find it easier to pluck inspiration from anywhere.

With most things, the more you do something, the better you get. And this applies to the creative writing process. The more you write poetry, the better you will get at it!

FIGURATIVE SPEECH

Another method I use to create ideas for my poetry is to pick an item each day of the week and write about it using different methods of figurative speech. I learnt about this writing device from my

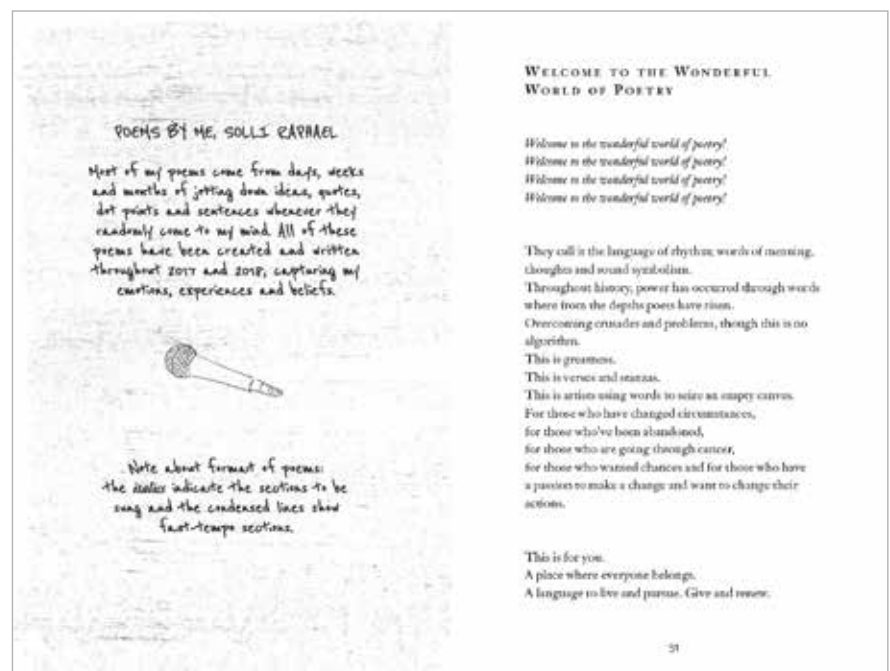
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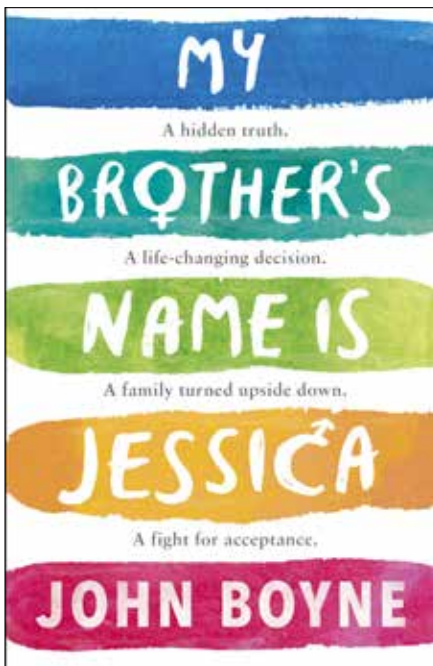
Also available as an [audio book](#)

ISBN: 9780143793762

RRP: \$16.99

Pages: 128





Text type
Fiction

Themes
Identity, Belonging, LGBTQI,
Coming of age, Family,
Gender

General capabilities
Critical and creative thinking,
Ethical understanding,
Empathetic understanding,
Literacy

My Brother's Name is Jessica

John Boyne



RELEASED APRIL 2019

A stunning and timely new novel from the multi-million bestselling and award-winning author of *The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas*.

A hidden truth. A life-changing decision. A family turned upside down. A fight for acceptance.

Sam Waver's life has always been pretty quiet. A bit of a loner, he struggles to make friends, and his busy parents often make him feel invisible. Luckily for Sam, his older brother, Jason, has always been there for him. Sam idolises Jason, who seems to have life sorted - he's kind, popular, amazing at football, and girls are falling over themselves to date him.

But then one evening Jason calls his family together to tell them that he's been struggling with a secret for a long time. A secret which quickly threatens to tear them all apart. His parents don't want to know and Sam simply doesn't understand.

Because what do you do when your brother says he's not your brother at all? That he thinks he's actually . . . your sister?

Extract

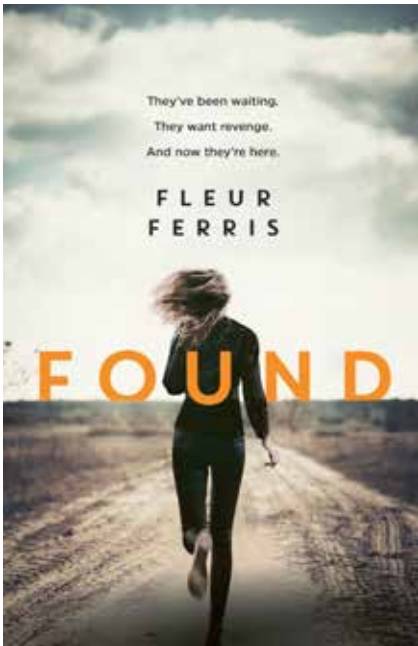
Some of my friends seemed a bit embarrassed for me, writing about my brother like that, but he was the person I most admired, so it seemed only right that he should be the subject of my essay. Whenever I needed him, he was there. When I was a child and had a bad dream, he'd always let me crawl into bed with him and would tell me that everything was all right.

About the author

John Boyne was born in Ireland in 1971. He is the author of eleven novels for adults, five for young readers and a collection of short stories. Perhaps best known for his 2006 multi-award-winning book *The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas*, John's other novels, notably *The Absolutist* and *A History of Loneliness*, have been widely praised and are international bestsellers.

ISBN: 9780241376171
RRP: \$16.99
Pages: 240





Text type
Fiction

Themes
Family, Identity and belonging, Mystery, Place, Survival

General capabilities
Critical and creative thinking, Literacy

Units of work
penguin.com.au/teachers

Found Fleur Ferris

RELEASED JULY 2018



**They've been waiting. They want revenge.
And now they're here.**

Elizabeth Miller has always lived in Deni. In a small rural town, Beth's biggest problem is telling her protective and fiercely private father that she has a boyfriend.

But when her dad disappears before her eyes, Beth discovers that he's not who she thought he was. Her family's secret past has caught up with them, and someone wants her dead.

Beth has been unwittingly prepared for this moment her whole life. Will it be enough to outrun – and outsmart – her hunters?

'Literally thrumming with pulse-pounding suspense, Found is a truly unputdownable read.' Sarah McDuling, *Booktopia*

Extract

When Jonah kisses me I forget about everything else. Who knows about us, who doesn't, telling my father . . . Jonah pulls away and I'm left breathless and smiling-silly into his clear blue eyes. Who knew falling in love turned your brain to mush?

'So you're doing it now? Before karate?' Jonah says.

'Yes.' I laugh at the look of terror on his face. 'It'll be fine.'

'You do realise I'm training with him in a couple of hours? It'd only take one swift kick to the head.'

I raise my eyebrows and smirk.

About the author

Fleur Ferris's colourful and diverse background has given her unique insight into today's society and an endless pool of experiences to draw from. When she isn't weaving this through young adult fiction, reading or spending time with her family, you will find her with friends, talking about art, books and travel.

Found is told from both Beth and Jonah's points of view, using first person past tense (Beth) and third person present tense (Jonah) narration.

ISBN: 9780143784326
RRP: \$19.99
Pages: 320





Text type

Non-fiction, Memoir

Themes

Bravery, Family, Health and wellbeing, Identity and belonging, Resilience, Survival

General capabilities

Critical and creative thinking, Ethical understanding, Literacy, Personal and social capability

Units of work

penguin.com.au/teachers

Unmasked

Young Adult Edition

Turia Pitt

RELEASED MAY 2018



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 unmasked 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.

'An inspirational revelation of the triumph of will over adversity.'

Magpies

Extract

My life will be forever divided into two parts: before the fire and after the fire.

As much as I refuse to be defined by a few seconds, I can't escape the fact that what happened to me one September afternoon in 2011 will give shape to the rest of my life story. I'm determined it won't be the most important moment in my life, but it will always be a significant one.

About the author

Turia Pitt's life was turned upside-down when she was trapped by a grassfire and suffered burns to 65 per cent of her body.

She is a well-recognised humanitarian, dedicating her time to causes she is passionate about. Turia was named the NSW Premier's Woman of the Year and was a finalist for Young Australian of the Year.

This edition has been specially edited and contains new content written for young adults.

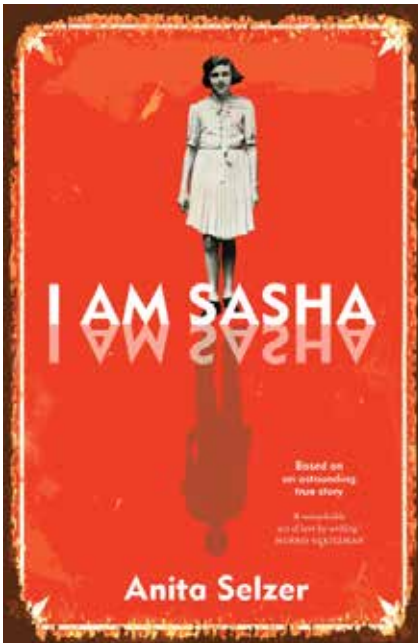
An adult edition is available.

ISBN: 9780143790396

RRP: \$17.99

Pages: 288





Text type

Fiction, Based on a true story

Themes

Belonging, Bravery, Gender, Identity, Immigration, Refugee experience, Survival, The Holocaust, WW2

General capabilities

Critical and creative thinking, Ethical understanding, Literacy

I Am Sasha

Anita Selzer

RELEASED APRIL 2018



One boy's extraordinary experience of wartime survival. One mother's incredible courage. Based on the astounding true story of the author's own father.

It is German-occupied Poland in 1942 and Jewish lives are at risk. Nazi soldiers order young boys to pull down their trousers to see if they are circumcised. Many are summarily shot or sent to the camps.

A remarkable mother takes an ingenious step. To avoid suspicion, she trains her teenage son to be a girl: his clothing, voice, hair, manners and more. Together, mother and son face incredible odds as their story sweeps backwards and forwards across occupied Europe.

'A remarkable act of love by writing.' Morris Gleitzman

'A compelling reminder of the cruelty of discrimination . . . and a testament to a boy's bravery, sublimating his true identity in the face of ever-present danger.' Simon French

Extract

It is a hot summer's day. The name of our boat is the *Surriento*. She drops her anchor and surrenders us to the sweltering Australian sun, my first experience of such heat. I hear Mama and others who've travelled with us talking about America, and of British and Dutch submarines, and I think it's strange that the war, my war, has touched even places as far away and unimaginable for me as this.

About the author

Anita Selzer writes non-fiction for children and adults. Before becoming a writer, Anita was a teacher of English and politics and completed Masters and Doctorate degrees in education, focusing on gender and history. This extraordinary story is based on her own grandmother's diaries. Anita lives in Melbourne and is available for school visits.

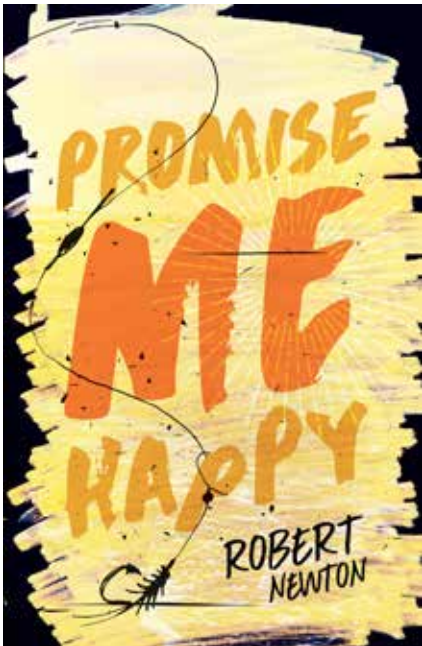
This text includes a historical photo section as well as a glossary and a timeline.

ISBN: 9780143785743

RRP: \$17.99

Pages: 336





Promise Me Happy

Robert Newton

RELEASED MAY 2019



A beautifully written contemporary YA with a love story at its heart.

Text type
Fiction

Themes
Crime and retribution, Facing the truth, Families, Loss and grief, Nature vs nurture, Prejudice, Symbolism

General capabilities
Critical and creative thinking, Literacy, Personal and social capability

Units of work
penguin.com.au/teachers

I don't know if it's possible for people to change, not really. The way you're made up, the important stuff, I reckon you're born with that... when it matters, when it really matters, we are who we are.

Nate's had it tough. An abusive father. His mother dead. He's done things he regrets.

But he's never met anyone like Gem. She's a tiny piece of wonderful and she'll change everything he knows about himself. Is this the beginning of happiness? Or is there more hardship around the corner?

'Robert Newton tackles big themes – overcoming loss, being comfortable in your own skin and not judging others based on their appearance – with humour and a light touch . . .' *Books + Publishing*

Extract

I don't know what I was expecting. I suppose part of me hoped my father had changed. Every now and then, when it got closer and I let myself think about getting out, I imagined it like a movie. I imagined walking through Croxley's huge metal gates, standing on the footpath outside as the cars and trucks darted left and right along the busy road in front of me. Then, just as I'm about to give up and look for a bus, there'd be a break in the traffic and that's when I'd see him, my father, leaning against his battered Toyota, smoking a cigarette.

But he's not coming. He never was.

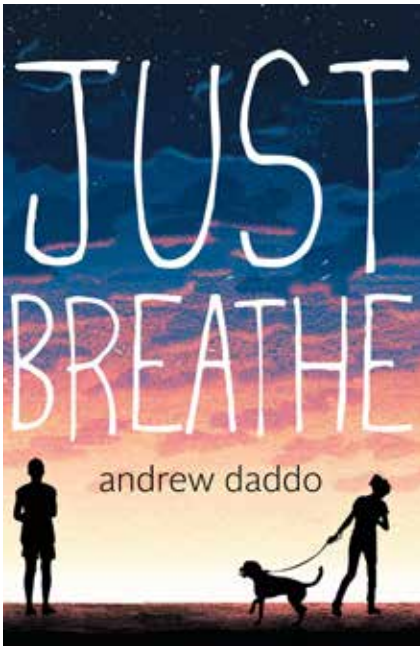
Turns out someone else has come instead.

About the author

Robert Newton works as a firefighter with the Metropolitan Fire Brigade. He has written eight novels for young people. He lives on the Mornington Peninsula with his wife and three daughters. His novel *When We Were Two* won the Prime Minister's Literary Award for Young Adult Fiction.

ISBN: 9780143796442
RRP: \$17.99
Pages: 288





Text type
Fiction

Themes
Coming of age, Family, Friendship, Health and wellbeing, Identity, Place, Relationships, Resilience

General capabilities
Critical and creative thinking, Ethical understanding, Literacy, Personal and social capability

Units of work
penguin.com.au/teachers

**CONTAINS SEXUAL
REFERENCES**

Just Breathe Andrew Daddo

RELEASED AUGUST 2018



A compelling coming-of-age story for teenagers from much-loved Australian author and media personality Andrew Daddo.

Hendrix's father has a vision – to see Hendrix run for Australia at the Olympics. His days are completely mapped out – what he eats, when he trains, when he sleeps, even the air he breathes.

There was never room in that vision for a girl, especially in the lead-up to the Nationals. Yet when Hendrix literally bowls Emily over on a training run, he just can't get her out of his head.

But Emily has a deadly secret that she's scared to share even with Hendrix. As their bond grows and Hendrix strays further from his father's strict regime, the tension builds to a heart-wrenching climax.

'Daddo hits the right spots to remind you of the wonder of young love.' *Herald Sun*

Extract

'Seriously?'

It was the only thing Dad said between the track and the car. He had my stuff with him, so all I had to do was follow like a dog in trouble. Even if I'd wanted to walk beside him, it would have been more like a jog. His shoulders were squared, head forward.

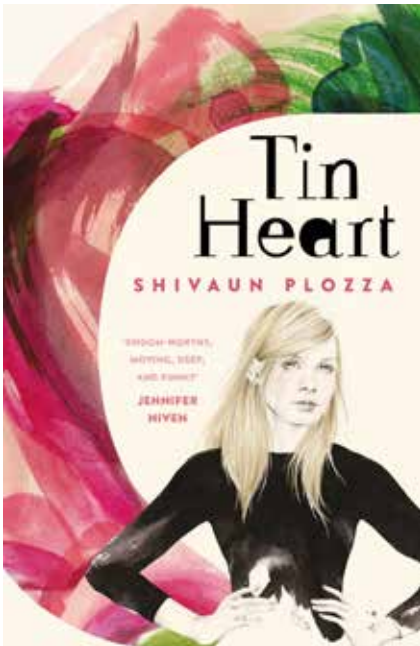
By the time I caught up to him, the car was started and in gear. The mask was sitting on the console between us and he pushed it firmly across the seat as he was putting his seatbelt on. I went to put it on straightaway but he barked, 'Wait, would ya! At least 'til we get out of the carpark! You know the drill.'

About the author

Andrew Daddo is an accomplished author of 26 books for all ages – picture books, chapter books, short story collections, young adult novels and adult non-fiction. Over the past ten years he has spoken to literally hundreds of thousands of school children around Australia about the importance of literacy.

ISBN: 9780143573623
RRP: \$17.99
Pages: 368





Text type
Fiction

Themes
Belonging, Family, Health and wellbeing, Identity, Survival

General capabilities
Critical and creative thinking, Literacy, Personal and social capability

Units of work
penguin.com.au/teachers

CONTAINS COARSE LANGUAGE

ISBN: 9780143786276
RRP: \$19.99
Pages: 320



Page 33

Tin Heart Shivaun Plozza

RELEASED MARCH 2018



Funny, romantic and deeply moving by turns – a fitting follow-up to the critically acclaimed, award-winning *Frankie*.

When Marlowe gets a heart transplant and a second chance at life, all she wants is to thank her donor's family. Maybe then she can move on. Maybe then she'll discover who she is if she's no longer The Dying Girl.

But with a little brother who dresses like every day is Halloween, a vegan warrior for a mother and an all-out war with the hot butcher's apprentice next door, Marlowe's life is already pretty complicated. And her second chance is about to take an unexpected turn . . .

Tin Heart is a divinely chaotic teen-drama full of emotional angst, crises and just the right amount of romantic tension.'

Natalie Platren, *Readings*

Extract

Picture the ticker-tape parade when I left hospital. Nurses and doctors and strangers crying and waving hankies. You did it, Marlowe! You survived! Picture me driving off in the back of a flashy convertible doing my best queenly wave at the streets lined with people cheering for the girl who survived.

And then Marlowe Jensen lived happily ever after.

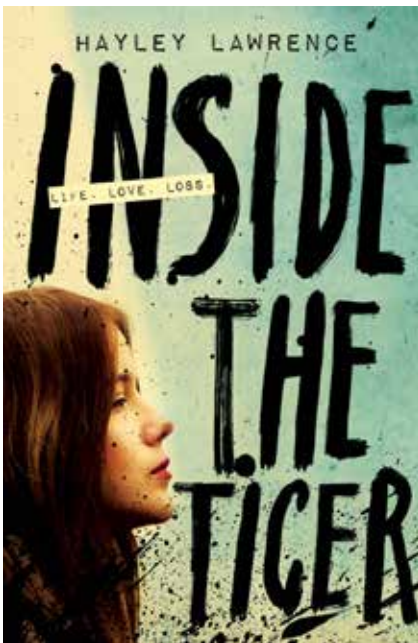
Except . . .

That's not really how it went. And I'm only seventeen so there's a lot of 'after' to get through.

About the author

Shivaun Plozza is an award-winning children's and YA writer. When she's not writing she works as an editor and manuscript assessor.

Shivaun's debut novel, *Frankie*, was shortlisted for the CBCA Book of the Year Awards, was highly commended in the Victorian Premier's Literary Awards, and won the Sisters in Crime Davitt Awards.



Text type

Fiction, short stories

Themes

Capital punishment, Coming of age, Drug trafficking, Loss, Justice system

General capabilities

Critical and creative thinking, Literacy, Personal and social capability

Unit of work

penguin.com.au/teachers

Inside the Tiger

Hayley Lawrence

RELEASED SEPTEMBER 2018



A powerful first novel dealing with life, loss and the redemptive power of love.

It's not because Bel's mother was murdered. It's not because her father is a politician. Bel writes to a Death Row prisoner as an easy way out of an assignment.

But now he's written back.

Drawn to Micah's world inside a Thai prison, Bel finds herself falling for the boy with ragged hair, shackles and a terrible past. But is she setting herself up for more loss? And will loving him mean losing the people who mean the most to her at home?

'This is an impressive debut novel, a real coming of age story. Lawrence has created authentic, likeable characters who engage the reader and drive the book.' *Magpies*

Extract

Nobody has ever sent me a letter in the post. Not the handwritten, snail-mail kind. And I've never written one, unless you count Year Seven English when we had to write to the person we most wanted to meet. All the other girls chose a celebrity. I wrote to my mother. It was a stupid idea and none of us ever heard back.

This is probably even more stupid.

Dear Micah,

The pen's been poised in my grip the last half hour. What do you say to a guy you've never met, whose life is the complete opposite of yours?

. . . In my mind, Micah's huddled in a grimy corner of his cell, his face heavy with regret . . . Micah has no right to sympathy.

About the author

Hayley Lawrence is a former lawyer who could not leave behind the stories of the people she'd encountered in her legal work. They are stories that provoke questions about the nature of humanity, and it's these questions that haunt her novels.

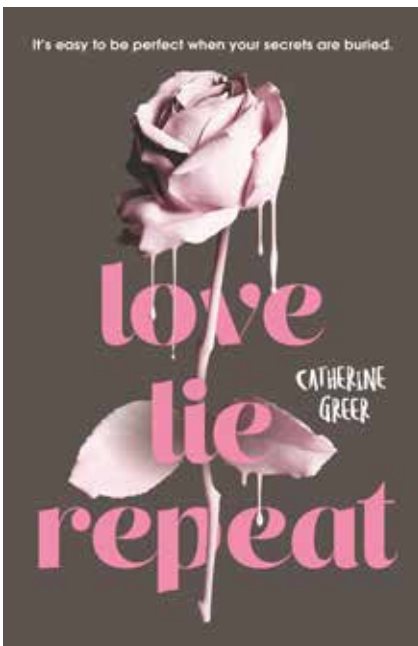
Inside the Tiger was a CBCA Book of the Year Notable in 2019.

ISBN: 9780143788959

RRP: \$19.99

Pages: 352





Text type
Fiction

Themes
Family, Friendship, Guilt and forgiveness, Moral dilemmas, Revenge, Secrets and lies, Trust

General capabilities
Critical and creative thinking, Literacy, Personal and social capability

Units of work
penguin.com.au/teachers

Love Lie Repeat

Catherine Greer

RELEASED MARCH 2019



It's easy to be perfect when your secrets are buried.

Three girls, loyal to each other? That never happens. All the groups of three implode eventually. Two in, one out. Change. Betrayal. Again and again.

But not us. I make sure of it. I make Ash and Ruby see that our power is in our three-ness. We can do what no other trio can.

Together, we're strong.

Thick, thin, boys, mothers, divorce, other girls, secrets, lies, all of it.

I'll keep us safe. Whatever it takes.

Watch me.

'Greer has put together an intense and gripping narrative with many twists and turns and the ending is not to be missed . . . I have no hesitation in promoting it to senior secondary students.' Sue Warren, secondary school teacher-librarian

Extract

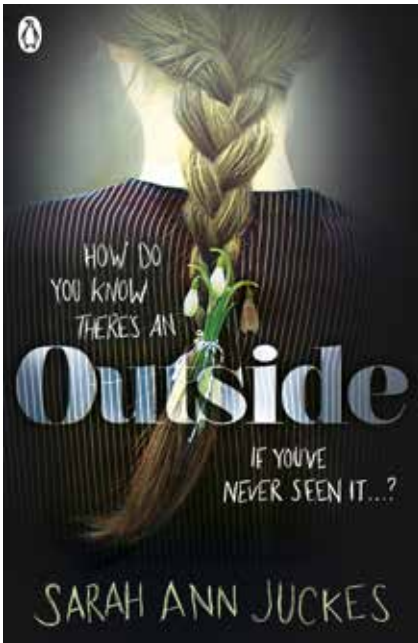
If you're the kind of girl who gets me, you'll understand this: power runs through my sixteen-year-old veins, not blood. I'm not some underdog, begging for scraps of anyone's attention. Neither are my friends. We're strong, we're smart and we know how to stick together.

About the author

Catherine Greer lives in Sydney with her husband and two teenage sons. Catherine started her career as an English teacher at a private high school on Vancouver Island, Canada. After she immigrated to Australia, she built a freelance copywriting business. When she isn't writing YA novels and other books for children, she runs a happiness blog, focusing on positive psychology. Catherine was a collaborating author with Stephanie Dowrick on *Choosing Happiness* (Allen & Unwin). Her debut picture book, *Jacaranda Snow*, was published by Wombat Books in 2018 and her debut YA novel, *Love Lie Repeat*, was published by Penguin in 2019.

ISBN: 9780143791225
RRP: \$19.99
Pages: 336





Outside

Sarah Ann Juckes

RELEASED JANUARY 2019



An extraordinary and powerful YA debut in the style of *Room* by Emma Donoghue.

Ele is kept captive in a small room by a man known as 'Him'. She has never been Outside but she knows it's there and she's determined to prove it.

When Ele eventually escapes, she is forced to question everything she has ever known.

Text type
Fiction

Themes
Perspective, Place, The search for connection, Time, Trauma

General capabilities
Critical and creative thinking, Ethical understanding, Literacy

Extract

Here's the thing about being Inside. Ain't no one believes that they are.

Pretty stupid, as there are clues just about all over. Feed rattling down pipes from somewhere else. That dirty ol' smell on Him when He barges in through the door.

And the door. And Him.

But the Others, they stick their fingers in their ear holes and tell me to quit with my lies. They're as happy as can be inside these four walls. They eat when it's time to eat. Sleep when it's time to sleep. Read when it's time to read. Far as they can see, ain't no need to see no Outside.

Or maybe they're just scared.

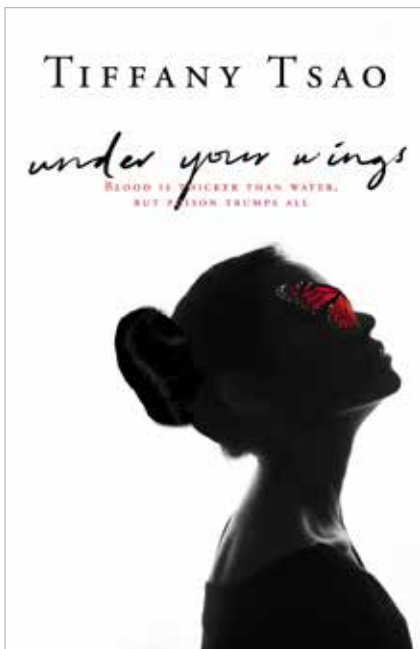
Not me, though. I'm gonna get me my proof.

About the author

Sarah Ann Juckes is a Content Creator for Jericho Writers and lives in East Sussex, UK. *Outside* was shortlisted for Mslexia's Children's Novel competition and longlisted for the Bath Novel Award. She volunteers for the NSPCC's 'Speak Out and Stay Safe' programme, and is on the board of Creative Future, working with under-represented writers.

ISBN: 9780241330753
RRP: \$16.99
Pages: 288





Under Your Wings

Tiffany Tsao

RELEASED JULY 2018

A powerful and evocative literary thriller from a stunning new Australian voice, for fans of Donna Tartt and Alice Sebold.

Gwendolyn and Estella have always been as close as sisters can be. Growing up in a wealthy, powerful and sometimes treacherous family, they've relied on each other for support and confidence. Now, though, Gwendolyn is lying in a coma, the sole survivor of Estella's poisoning of their whole family. What in their dark and complicated past has brought them to this point?

As Gwendolyn struggles to regain consciousness, she desperately retraces her memories, trying to uncover the moment that led to this brutal act. Their aunt's supposed death at sea; Estella's unhappy marriage to the brutish Leonard; the shifting loyalties and unspoken resentments at the heart of the opulent world they inhabit – one by one, the facts float up, forcing Gwendolyn to confront the truth about who she and her sister really are, and the secrets in their family's past.

Text type Fiction

Themes
Chinese-Indonesian relations,
Family history, Identity

General capabilities
Critical and creative thinking,
Intercultural understanding,
Literacy, Personal and social
capability

Author interview
[claireevareadsandreviews.
wordpress.com](http://claireevareadsandreviews.wordpress.com)

Extract

When your sister murders three hundred people, you can't help but wonder why – especially if you were one of the intended victims. Though I do forgive her, if you can believe it. I tried my best to deny the strength of family ties when everyone was still alive, but now I realise the truth of the cliché: blood does run thick. Even if poison trumps all.

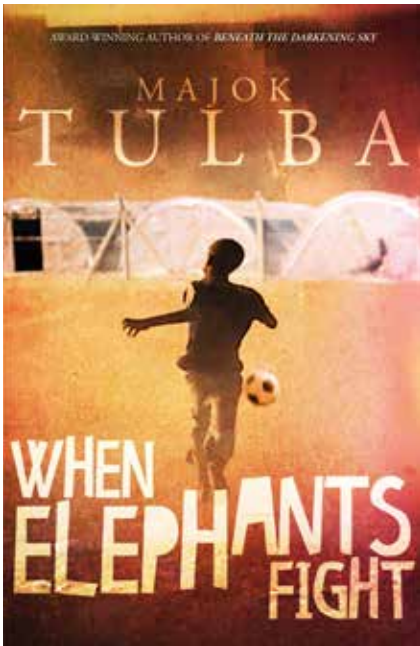
It was caught on surveillance tape, so there's no denying that Estella was the culprit. I haven't seen the footage myself – can't see at all in my present condition – but I can imagine it with great clarity. At the mouth of the corridor leading from the hotel ballroom to the adjoining kitchen, my sister appears.

About the author

Tiffany Tsao was born in San Diego, USA, and lived in Singapore and Indonesia through her childhood. A graduate of Wellesley College and the University of California Berkeley, where she earned a PhD in English, she has taught and researched literature at Berkeley, the Georgia Institute of Technology, and the University of Newcastle, Australia. She holds an affiliation with the Indonesian Studies Department at the University of Sydney.

ISBN: 9780143789017
RRP: \$32.99
Pages: 288





Text type
Fiction

Themes
Coming of age, Humanity,
Multiculturalism, Refugees,
Resilience, Sudan, Survival

General capabilities
Critical and creative thinking,
Intercultural understanding,
Literacy, Personal and social
capability

Discussion points
penguin.com.au/book-clubs

ISBN: 9781926428437
RRP: \$29.99
Pages: 256



When Elephants Fight

Majok Tulba

RELEASED JULY 2018



A haunting coming-of-age novel from one of the *Sydney Morning Herald's* Best Young Novelists of the Year (2013)

In the South Sudanese village of Pacong, Juba is young and old at the same time. Forced to grow up quickly in the civil war, he is nonetheless fun-loving as well as smart. But his little world cannot deflect the conflict raging around it and soon he must flee the life he loves.

Ahead lies a long trek to a refugee camp, a journey arduous and fraught. When at last it ends, Juba comes to wonder if there's any such thing as safe haven in his country. Yet life in the camp is not all bad. There can be intense joy amid the deprivation, there are angels as well as demons.

'Apart from its haunting depiction of war without boundaries, When Elephants Fight is a thought-provoking exploration of the role of gender in the context of armed conflict.' *Sydney Morning Herald*

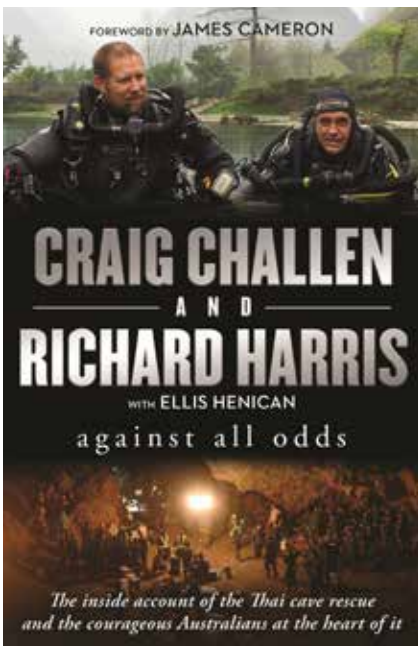
Extract

My older brother, Deng, doesn't live with us anymore. I don't know where he went. He's been gone a long time now but my heart still aches when I come home and he's not there. Sometimes I make out he's hiding behind the bushes, waiting for me to find him like in the old days. But he isn't, and I know he's not hiding anywhere nearby, no matter how hard I pretend. I know he's far from our village of Pacong. Some nights I dream I'm walking with him across a valley of tall green grass beyond the hills.

I've asked Grandpa if he knows where Deng is but he doesn't like talking about it. As my father is dead and Grandpa is getting old, it's up to me to bring our family back together.

About the author

Majok Tulba lives in Western Sydney with his wife and children. He is CEO of the charity SudanCare, has had a film as a finalist at Tropfest, and has won a NSW Premier's/CAL Literary Centre Fellowship.



Text type
Non-fiction

Themes
Biography and memoir,
Science, Medicine, Bravery,
Society

General capabilities
Critical and creative
thinking, Literacy, Intercultural
understanding

Against All Odds

Craig Challen & Richard Harris

RELEASED NOVEMBER 2019

The inside account of the Thai cave rescue and the courageous Australians at the heart of it.

'I just want to warn you. You're going to dive to the end of the cave. You're going to see these kids. They're all looking healthy and happy and smiley. Then, you're going to swim away, and they're probably all going to die.'

In June 2018, for seventeen days, the world watched and held its breath as the Wild Boar soccer team were trapped deep in a cave in Thailand. Marooned beyond flooded cave passages after unexpected rains, they were finally rescued, one-by-one, against almost impossible odds, by an international cave-diving team which included Australians Dr Richard Harris and Dr Craig Challen.

These two men were chosen for their medical expertise and cave diving knowledge, but this dangerous rescue asked so much more of them. They had to remain calm under extreme pressure and intense scrutiny, adapt to constantly changing circumstances and most importantly, build trust among the rescue team and with the young boys and their coach, whose lives were in their hands.

Extract

It was the mission we'd all been training for, a life-or-death rescue in remote northern Thailand, deep inside a flooded mountain cave. The whole world was watching. The chances were disturbingly slim. Anyone who knew anything about cave rescue had to recognise that. Thirteen young people were huddled in the chilly darkness, one monsoonal downpour from the end of their lives.

About the authors

Craig Challen SC OAM is an Australian veterinary surgeon, technical diver and cave explorer. He was the recipient of the Oztek 2009 Diver of the Year award for his services to caving, and was jointly awarded 2019 Australian of the Year.

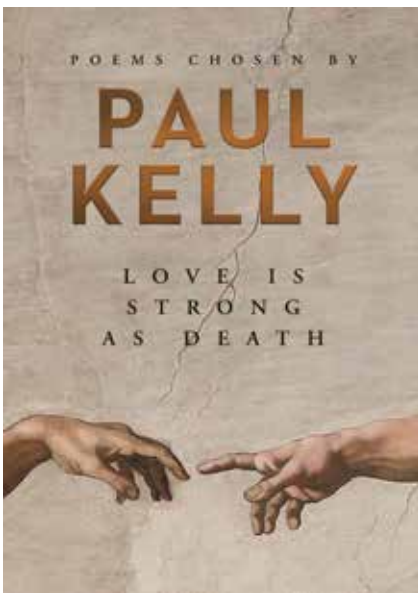
Richard 'Harry' Harris SC OAM is an Australian anaesthetist and cave diver who played a crucial role in the Tham Luang cave rescue. He and Craig Challen were jointly awarded 2019 Australian of the Year as a result of that rescue.

ISBN: 9781760890957

RRP: \$34.99

Pages: 336





Text type
Poetry

Themes
Language, Literacy

General capabilities
Critical and creative thinking,
Literacy

Love is Strong as Death

Paul Kelly



RELEASED NOVEMBER 2019

A collection of more than 300 of Paul Kelly's favourite poems.

Paul Kelly's songs are steeped in poetry. And now he has gathered from around the world the poems he loves – poems that have inspired and challenged him over the years, a number of which he has set to music. This wide-ranging and deeply moving anthology combines the ancient and the modern, the hallowed and the profane, the famous and the little known, to speak to two of literature's great themes that have proven so powerful in his music: love and death – plus everything in between.

There are poems by Yehuda Amichai, W.H. Auden, Tusiata Avia, Hera Lindsay Bird, William Blake, Bertolt Brecht, Constantine Cavafy, Alison Croggon, Mahmoud Darwish, Emily Dickinson and many more.

About this book

'The first stage was easy, simply listing all the poems I knew and loved. Then I spent most of last summer seeking out poems that were new to me, following leads, getting tips from friends and so on. So one reason for the book is personal - to discover more poems, to roll new words around my tongue. The other more general reason is to encourage others to enjoy poetry; to not be intimidated by it, to make poems life-time companions in glad times and sad.' - Paul Kelly

Also available as an [audiobook](#)

About the author

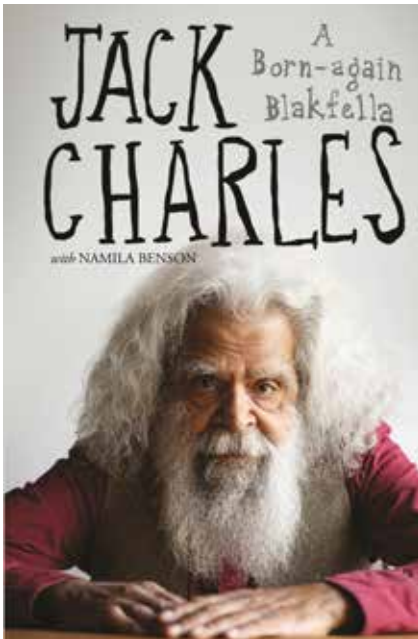
Paul Kelly was born in Adelaide, one of nine children, in 1955. He wrote his first song in 1976 and has been making records since 1978, over thirty to date. He has collaborated with many other songwriters and written music for film and theatre. His prose has appeared in *Meanjin*, *The Monthly*, *Rolling Stone* and *The Age*, and in 2010 he published a 'mongrel memoir', *How to Make Gravy*. His most recent album is 2019's *Thirteen Ways to Look at Birds*.

ISBN: 9781760892685

RRP: \$39.99

Pages: 432





Text type

Non-fiction biography

Themes

Racism, Family, Indigenous Experience, Mental Health, Addiction, Resilience

General capabilities

Critical and creative thinking, Ethical understanding, Intercultural understanding, Literacy

Cross-curriculum priorities

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories and cultures

Also available as an [audiobook](#)

ISBN: 9780143792222

RRP: \$34.99

Pages: 256



Page 41

Jack Charles Born-again Blakfella **Jack Charles**



RELEASED AUGUST 2019

Jack Charles has worn many hats throughout his life: actor, cat burglar, musician, heroin addict, activist, even Senior Victorian Australian of the Year. But the title he's most proud to claim is that of Aboriginal Elder.

Stolen from his mother and placed into institutional care when he was only a few months old, Uncle Jack was raised under the government's White Australia Policy. The loneliness and isolation he experienced during those years had a devastating impact on him that endured long after he reconnected with his Aboriginal roots and discovered his stolen identity.

In this honest and no-holds-barred memoir, Uncle Jack reveals the 'ups and downs of this crazy, drugged up, locked up, fucked up, and at times unbelievable, life'. From his sideline as a cat burglar, battles with drug addiction and stints in prison, to gracing the nation's stages and screens as he dazzled audiences with his big personality and acting prowess, he takes us through the most formative moments of his life.

Extract

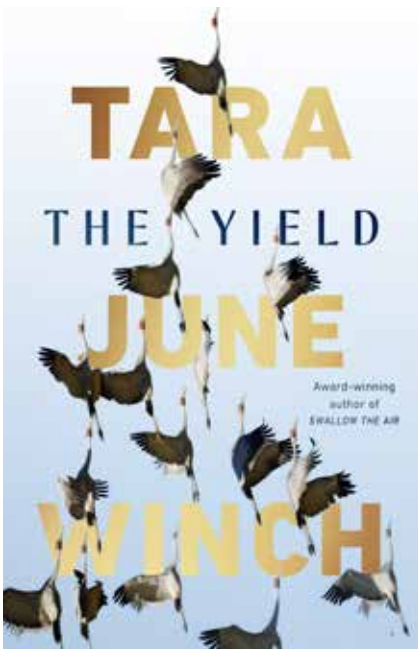
I heard his wife storming into the house and yelling out, 'Have you got him?'

'Yeah,' he said, not taking his eyes off me. 'He's here in the bedroom. Call the police.'

'No. I want to see him first,' she replied, and entered the room. She took one look at me and exclaimed, 'You're Jack Charles!' I shrank at the recognition. This woman had seen me in a show at the Pram Factory. And thank goodness, for that. She happened to also be an enthusiastic supporter of the arts, so she didn't call the cops. Instead, she invited me to sit in their kitchen for a cup of tea and a chat.

About the author

Uncle Jack Charles is an Australian legend: survivor of the Stolen Generation, Indigenous elder, actor, musician, activist and former heroin addict and cat burglar. Now on the cusp of his 75th birthday, he's ready to tell the full story of how he became a born-again Blakfella and one of Australia's best-loved actors.



Text type
Fiction

Themes

Indigenous language and spirituality, Belonging and storytelling

General capabilities

Critical and creative thinking, Literacy, Personal and social capability

Unit of work

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Discussion points

penguin.com.au/book-clubs

Also available as an [audiobook](#)

ISBN: 9780143785750

RRP: \$32.99

Pages: 352



Page 42

The Yield

Tara June Winch

RELEASED JULY 2019



Just tell the truth and someone will hear it eventually.

The *yield* in English is the reaping, the things that man can take from the land. In the language of the Wiradjuri *yield* is the things you give to, the movement, the space between things: *baayanha*.

Profoundly moving and exquisitely written, Tara June Winch's *The Yield* is the story of a people and a culture dispossessed. But it is as much a celebration of what was and what endures, and a powerful reclaiming of Indigenous language, storytelling and identity.

'Mesmerising and important.' *Melissa Lucashenko*

Extract

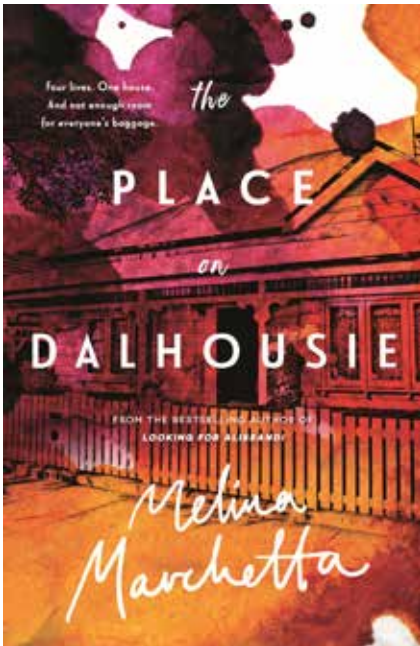
I was born on *ngurambang* – can you hear it? – *ngu-ram-bang*. If you say it right it hits the back of your mouth and you should taste blood in your words. Every person around should learn the word for *country* in the old language, the first language – because that is the way to all time, to time travel! You can go all the way back.

My daddy was Buddy Gondiwindi and he died a young man by the hands of a bygone disease. My mother was Augustine and she died an old woman by the grip of, well, it was an Old World disease too.

Yet nothing ever really dies, instead it all goes beneath your feet, beside you, part of you. Look there – grass on the side of the road, tree bending in the wind, fish in the river, fish on your plate, fish feeding you. Nothing is ever gone. Soon, when I change, I won't be dead.

About the author

Tara June Winch is a Wiradjuri author, born in Australia in 1983 and is now based in France. Her first novel, *Swallow the Air* became a critically acclaimed debut. She has been mentored by Nobel Prize winner Wole Soyinka as part of the prestigious Rolex Mentor and Protégé Arts Initiative, and her second book was recognised by multiple awards. She also wrote the Indigenous dance documentary, *Carriberrie*, which screened at the 71st Cannes Film Festival and is touring internationally.



Text type
Fiction

Themes
Belonging, Loss, Family

General capabilities
Critical and creative thinking,
Literacy, Personal and social
capability

Discussion points
penguin.com.au/book-clubs

Also available as an [audiobook](#)

ISBN: 9780143793533
RRP: \$32.99
Pages: 288



Page 43

The Place on Dalhousie

Melina Marchetta



RELEASED APRIL 2019

A perfectly crafted novel about families, relationships and the true nature of belonging.

When Rosie Gennaro first meets Jimmy Hailler, she has walked away from life in Sydney, leaving behind the place on Dalhousie that her father, Seb, painstakingly rebuilt for his family but never saw completed. Two years later, Rosie returns to the house and living there is Martha, whom Seb Gennaro married less than a year after the death of Rosie's mother. Martha is struggling to fulfil Seb's dream, while Rosie is coming to terms with new responsibilities. And so begins a stand-off between two women who refuse to move out of the home they both lay claim to.

As the battle lines are drawn, Jimmy Hailler re-enters Rosie's life. Having always watched other families from the perimeters, he's now grappling, heartbreakingly, with forming one of his own...

An unforgettable story about losing love and finding love; about the interconnectedness of lives and the true nature of belonging, from one of our most acclaimed writers.

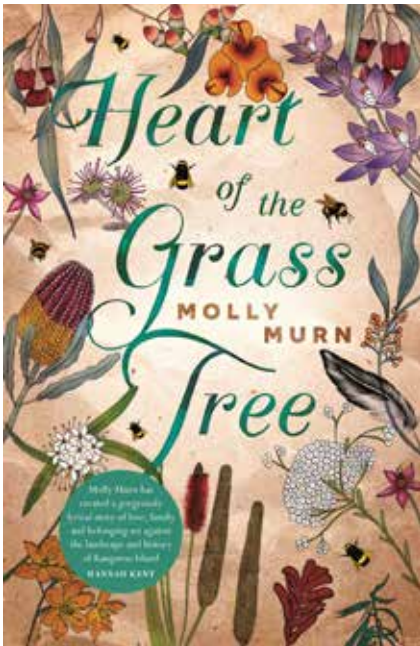
Extract

It's rained for forty days and forty nights, so when a guy who looks like Jesus in orange SES overalls comes to stand next to her, Rosie thinks it's all a bit biblical.

Up on the meat-raffle stage, the pot-bellied chief of emergency services is trying to get a word in. He's just mentioned the words 'forced evacuation' and the whole place is in an uproar. Some old bloke yells out that the Dawson threatens to flood every year and it's nothing to get their knickers in a twist about. The mayor is pushing for evacuation.

About the author

Melina Marchetta is a bestselling author in more than twenty countries and eighteen languages. She has published award-winning young adult, fantasy and crime fiction, including her acclaimed crime novel, *Tell the Truth, Shame the Devil*.



Text type
Fiction

Themes
Australian History, Indigenous identity, Family, Identity and culture, Trauma, Grief

General capabilities
Critical and creative thinking, Ethical understanding, Intercultural understanding, Literacy

Cross-curriculum priorities
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories and cultures

Discussion points
penguin.com.au/book-clubs

ISBN: 9780143792499
RRP: \$32.99
Pages: 304



Heart of the Grass Tree Molly Murn

RELEASED FEBRUARY 2019



An exquisite, searing and hope-filled debut about mothers, daughters and family stories, about country and its living history.

When Pearl's grandmother, Nell, dies unexpectedly, Pearl and her family – mother Diana, sister Lucy – return to Kangaroo Island to mourn and farewell her. Each of them knew Nell intimately but differently, and each woman must reckon with Nell's passing in her own way. But Nell had secrets too, and as Pearl, Diana and Lucy interrogate their feelings about the island, Pearl starts to pull together the scraps Nell left behind – her stories, poems, paintings – and unearths a connection to the island's early history, of the early European sealers and their first contact with the Ngarrindjeri people.

As the three women in grief are pulled apart from each other, Pearl's deepening connection to their history, the island's history, grounds her, and will ultimately bring the women back to each other.

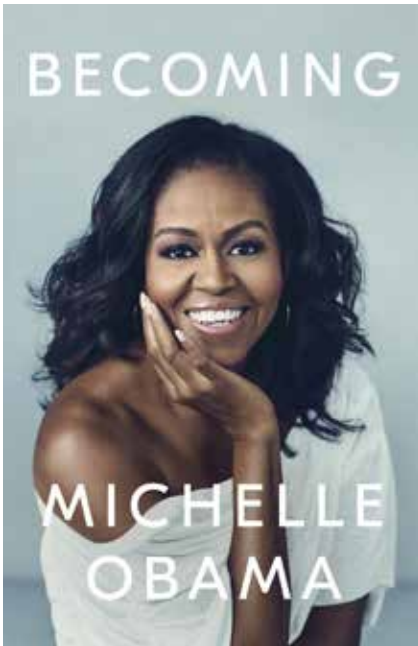
'Heart of the Grass Tree is a brilliant achievement. A strange and compelling story that held me in thrall from the first page to the last.' Alex Miller

Extract

My mother kept bees: *Apis mellifera ligustica*, the Ligurian bee, which exists in its purest strain here on Kangaroo Island. The bees were born in the Ligurian Alps in the days of the Roman Empire and were introduced to the island in the early 1880s by a certain August Fiebig.

About the author

Molly Murn is a South Australian author and poet. She holds a Bachelor of Dance, a Masters of Creative Arts, and is currently a PhD candidate in Creative Writing at Flinders University. Molly also works as a bookseller at Matilda Bookshop in the Adelaide Hills. *Heart of the Grass Tree* is her first novel. She lives in the Adelaide Hills and loves to tango, read, walk, listen to records, and spend time in wild places.



Text type
Non-fiction

Themes
Biography, History, Politics
and culture

General capabilities
Critical and creative thinking,
Literacy, Personal and social
capability

Discussion points
penguin.com.au/book-clubs

Becoming Michelle Obama

RELEASED NOVEMBER 2018



An intimate, powerful, and inspiring memoir by the former First Lady of the United States.

In a life filled with meaning and accomplishment, Michelle Obama has emerged as one of the most iconic and compelling women of our era. As the first African-American First Lady of the United States of America, she helped create the most welcoming and inclusive White House in history, while also establishing herself as a powerful advocate for women and girls in the U.S. and around the world, dramatically changing the ways that families pursue healthier and more active lives, and standing with her husband as he led America through some of its most harrowing moments. Along the way, she showed us a few dance moves, crushed Carpool Karaoke, and raised two down-to-earth daughters under an unforgiving media glare.

In her memoir, a work of deep reflection and mesmerizing storytelling, Michelle Obama invites readers into her world, chronicling the experiences that have shaped her – from her childhood on the South Side of Chicago to her years as an executive balancing the demands of motherhood and work, to her time spent at the world's most famous address. Warm, wise, and revelatory, *Becoming* is the deeply personal reckoning of a woman of soul and substance who has steadily defied expectations-and whose story inspires us to do the same.

Extract

I spent much of my childhood listening to the sound of striving. It came in the form of bad music, or at least amateur music, coming up through the floorboards of my bedroom - the *plink plink plink* of students sitting downstairs at my great aunt Robbie's piano, slowly and imperfectly learning their scales.

Also available as an [audiobook](#)

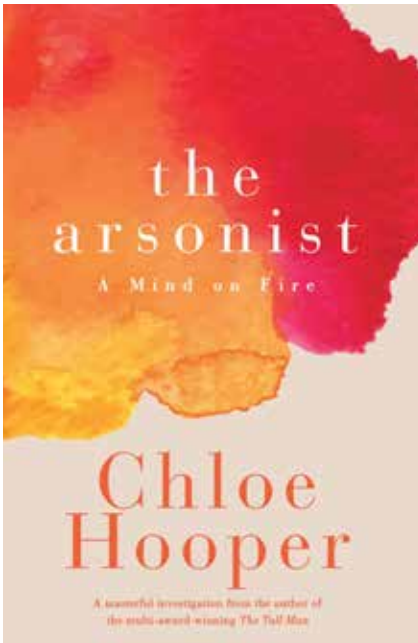
ISBN: 9780241334140
RRP: \$49.99
Pages: 448



Page 45

About the author

Michelle Robinson Obama served as First Lady of the United States from 2009 to 2017. A graduate of Princeton University and Harvard Law School, Mrs. Obama started her career as an attorney at the Chicago law firm Sidley & Austin, where she met her future husband, Barack Obama. Mrs. Obama also founded the Chicago chapter of Public Allies, an organization that prepares young people for careers in public service.



Text type
Non-fiction

Themes
True crime, Australian stories, Thriller, Survival, Rural Australia, Community, Retribution, Family, Grief and hope

General capabilities
Critical and creative thinking, Literacy, Personal and social capability

Also available as an [audiobook](#)

ISBN: 9781760895242
RRP: \$34.99
Pages: 272



Page 46

The Arsonist

Chloe Hooper

RELEASED OCTOBER 2018



***The Arsonist* is the story of the man who catalysed Black Saturday, the fire he lit, and the people who were killed.**

On the scorching February day in 2009 that became known as Black Saturday, a man lit two fires in Victoria's Latrobe Valley, then sat on the roof of his house to watch the inferno. In the Valley, where the rates of crime were the highest in the state, more than thirty people were known to police as firebugs. But the detectives soon found themselves on the trail of a man they didn't know.

The Arsonist takes readers on the hunt for this man, and inside the strange puzzle of his mind. It is also the story of fire in this country, and of a community that owed its existence to that very element. The command of fire has defined and sustained us as a species – understanding its abuse will define our future.

A powerful real-life thriller written with Hooper's trademark lyric detail and nuance, *The Arsonist* is a reminder that in an age of fire, all of us are gatekeepers.

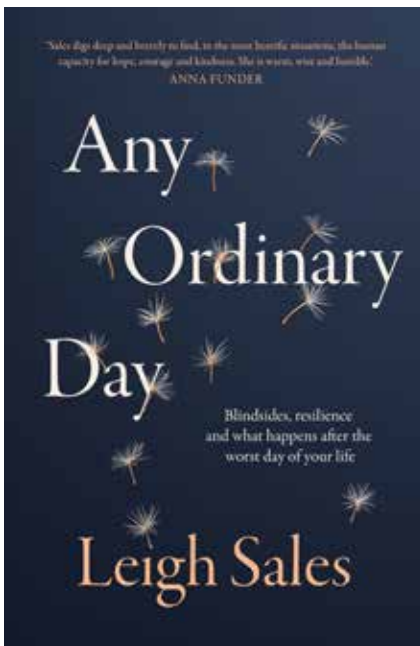
'Hooper's account of the terrible crime that traumatised a community is even-handed and nuanced.' *The Guardian*

Extract

Picture a fairytale's engraving. Straight black trees stretching in perfect symmetry to their vanishing point, the ground covered in thick white snow. Woods are dangerous places in such stories, things are not as they seem. Here, too, in this timber plantation, menace lingers. The blackened trees smoulder. Smoke creeps around their charcoal trunks and charred leaves. The snow, stained pale grey, is ash. Place your foot unwisely and it might slip through and burn. These woods are cordoned off with crime scene tape and guarded by uniformed police officers.

About the author

Chloe Hooper's *The Tall Man: Death and Life on Palm Island* (2008) won the Victorian, New South Wales, West Australian and Queensland Premier's Literary Awards, as well as the John Button Prize for Political Writing, and a Ned Kelly Award for crime writing.



Text type
Non-fiction

Themes
Resilience, Grief, Loss,
Personal achievements

General capabilities
Critical and creative thinking,
Literacy, Personal and social
capability

Discussion points
penguin.com.au/book-clubs

Q & A with Leigh Sales
penguin.com.au/qa

Also available as an [audiobook](#)

ISBN: 9781760893637
RRP: \$34.99
Pages: 272



Page 47

Any Ordinary Day Leigh Sales

RELEASED OCTOBER 2018



What happens when ordinary people, on ordinary days, are forced to suddenly find the resilience most of us don't know we have?

As a journalist, Leigh Sales often encounters people experiencing the worst moments of their lives in the full glare of the media. But one particular string of bad news stories – and a terrifying brush with her own mortality – sent her looking for answers about how vulnerable each of us is to a life-changing event. What are our chances of actually experiencing one? What do we fear most and why? And when the worst does happen, what comes next?

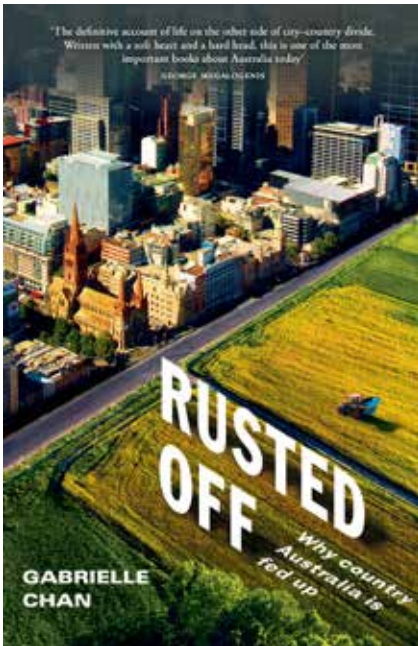
In this wise and layered book, Leigh talks intimately with people who've faced the unimaginable, from terrorism to natural disaster to simply being in the wrong place at the wrong time. Expecting broken lives, she instead finds strength, hope, even humour. Leigh brilliantly condenses the cutting-edge research on the way the human brain processes fear and grief, and poses the questions we too often ignore out of awkwardness. Along the way, she offers an unguarded account of her own challenges and what she's learned about coping with life's unexpected blows.

Extract

The day that turns a life upside down usually starts like any other. You open your eyes, swing your body out of bed, eat breakfast, get dressed and leave the house, your mind busy. As you close the front door behind you, rarely is there a tingle of unease that something is off. Later, when the story of what happened next comes to be told, it will start with the day's deceptive ordinariness, something that will now seem incredible. How could a blindside so momentous have struck on a day that began so unremarkably?

About the author

Leigh Sales is one of Australia's most respected journalists. As the anchor of the ABC's flagship current affairs program, *7.30*, she has interviewed dozens of world leaders and celebrities. She has interviewed every living Australian prime minister and also anchors the ABC's federal election coverage. Leigh is the winner of two Walkley Awards, Australia's highest journalism honour; the author of the books *Detainee 002* and *On Doubt*; and the co-host of a popular podcast called *Chat 10, Looks 3* with Annabel Crabb.



Text type
Non-fiction

Themes

Society, Culture, Politics,
Rural Australia, Community

General capabilities

Critical and creative thinking,
Literacy, Personal and social
capability

Rusted Off

Gabrielle Chan

RELEASED SEPTEMBER 2018

A big story from a small town.



Telling the story of Australia as it is today, Gabrielle Chan has gone hyper-local. In *Rusted Off*, she looks to her own rural community's main street for answers to the big questions driving voters. Why are we so fed up with politics? Why are formerly rusted-on country voters deserting major parties in greater numbers than their city cousins? Can ordinary people teach us more about the way forward for government?

In 1996 – the same year as Pauline Hanson entered parliament – Gabrielle, the city-born daughter of a Chinese migrant, moved to a sheep and wheat farm in country New South Wales. She provides a window into her community where she raised her children and reflects on its lessons for the Australian political story. It is a fresh take on the old rural narrative, informed by class and culture, belonging and broadband, committees and cake stalls, rural recession and reconciliation.

'Chan has produced a clear-eyed, honest and necessary decryption key for the times in which we live. It ought to be read and its subjects heard.' *The Australian*

Extract

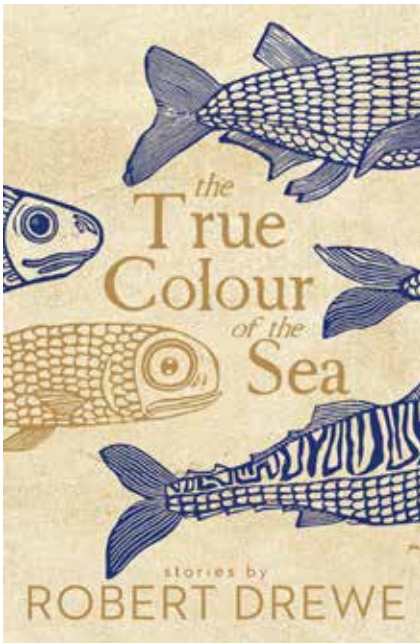
I don't know if there's a moment when you realise you belong to a place, a landscape or a culture. I do know when I was first offended by an outsider's view of my small town, the town in which my children were born and raised; the place in which I first understood a sense of belonging, of community and the impulse to project it.

About the author

Gabrielle Chan has been a journalist for more than 30 years. She has been a political journalist for *Guardian Australia*, *The Australian*, *ABC radio* and *The Daily Telegraph*. Gabrielle has written and edited history books, biographies and even a recipe book.

ISBN: 9780143789284
RRP: \$34.99
Pages: 352





The True Colour of the Sea

Robert Drewe



RELEASED AUGUST 2018

The long-awaited new collection of short stories from Australia's master of the short-story genre.

Text type

Fiction, short stories

Themes

Ageing, Empathy,
Relationships, Social
attitudes, Survival, The sea

General capabilities

Critical and creative thinking,
Literacy, Personal and social
capability

An artist marooned on a remote island in the Arafura Sea contemplates his survival chances. He understands his desperate plight and the ocean's unrelenting power. But what is its true colour?

A beguiling young woman nurses a baby by a lake while hiding brutal scars. Uneasy descendants of a cannibal victim visit the Pacific island of their ancestor's murder. A Caribbean cruise of elderly tourists faces life with wicked optimism.

Witty, clever, ever touching and always inventive, the eleven stories in *The True Colour of the Sea* take us to many varied coasts: whether a tense Christmas holiday apartment overlooking the Indian Ocean or the shabby glamour of a Cuban resort hotel.

Relationships might be frayed, savaged, regretted or celebrated, but here there is always the life-force of the ocean – seducing, threatening, inspiring.

'An elegant collection, muscular and subtle, from one of the best writers in Australia' *The Weekend Australian*

Extract

After I spotted a python climbing into her picnic basket and yelled out, I got chatting to a young woman down at Black Lake. She had a badly scarred face and a baby. She flipped one of her sandals at the snake, casually backhand, like she was throwing a frisbee; the snake uncoiled itself from the basket and slid up the nearest camphor laurel, and we got talking.

About the author

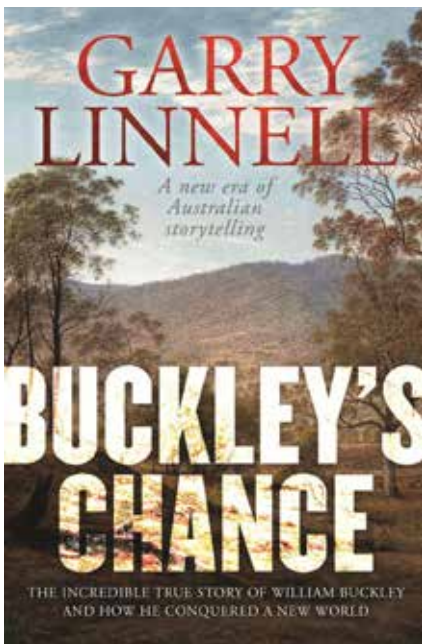
Robert Drewe is the author of seven novels, four books of short stories, two memoirs, six other works of non-fiction and two plays. His work has been widely translated, and adapted for film, television, theatre and radio.

ISBN: 9780143782681

RRP: \$29.99

Pages: 224





Text type
Fiction

Themes
Colonial Australia, Australian History, Survival, Indigenous Australia

General capabilities
Critical and creative thinking,
Ethical understanding,
Intercultural understanding,
Literacy

Buckley's Chance

Garry Linnell

RELEASED OCTOBER 2019



A remarkable tale of survival in the colonial era from the respected, Walkley-winning journalist.

The 19th century has just begun. The world is at war. England, ruled by a mad king, is exiling thousands of criminals to an old land that has become its newest dumping ground.

One of those prisoners is William Buckley, barely 21, a former soldier sentenced to life for stealing two small pieces of cloth. He's a giant for his times. But it's not just his towering frame that sets him apart. It's his desire for freedom that will make his story so unique – even in an era famous for outrageous acts of bravery and heroism.

On a moonlit night Buckley escapes and disappears into the Australian bush. Discovered and adopted by an Aboriginal tribe who regard him as a ghost, he is initiated into their rich and complex culture. Given up for dead by his white captors, he will not be seen again for more than 30 years until he emerges one day . . . carrying a spear, dressed in animal skins and having forgotten the English language.

Extract

Heavy boots thud on dry soil. Shouts drown out the gentle lapping of waves on the nearby beach. Nearby, the sound of a musket being fired. Not long after, a whiff of acrid burnt powder. And then silence, broken only by the odd curse. The trail has turned cold and lifeless. William Buckley is long gone. He will always be a hard man to find. No wonder the natives will call him a ghost.

About the author

Garry Linnell is one of Australia's most experienced journalists. Born and raised in Geelong, he has won several awards for his writing, including a Walkley for best feature writing. He has been editor-in-chief of *The Bulletin*, editor of *The Daily Telegraph*, director of news and current affairs for the Nine Network and editorial director of Fairfax. He spent four years as co-host of the *Breakfast Show* on 2UE and is also the author of three previous books.

ISBN: 9780143795742
RRP: \$34.99
Pages: 368





Text type
Non-fiction

Themes
Gendered violence, Sexism,
Media, Feminism, #MeToo

General capabilities
Critical and creative thinking,
Ethical understanding,
Intercultural understanding,
Literacy

Fixed It Jane Gilmore

RELEASED SEPTEMBER 2019



A potent reminder of the dangers of dehumanising stereotypes, and the importance of interrogating and rethinking the way violence is reported on and discussed.

On average, at least one woman is murdered by a current or former partner every week in Australia. Far too many Australian women have experienced physical or sexual violence. Only rarely do these women capture the attention of the media and the public. What can we do to stem the tide of violence and tragedy?

Fixed It demonstrates the myths that we're unconsciously sold about violence against women, and undercuts them in a clear and compelling way. This is a bold, powerful look at the stories we are told – and the stories we tell ourselves – about gender and power, and a call to action for all of us to think harder and do better.

Extract

In July 2013 a woman called Tracy Connelly was murdered in Melbourne. It made headlines in most of the national newspapers, all of which used some variation of the phrase 'St Kilda Prostitute Killed'. The story dropped off the front page of every website within a day.

Less than a year before Tracy's murder, another woman, Jill Meagher, was murdered. Remember Jill? How could we forget her? So young, so beautiful, so beloved, so normal. The reporting reached saturation with a gorgeous photo of her happy, smiling face...It made her a real person to everyone who read about her murder.

But what about the 'St Kilda Prostitute'?

About the author

Jane Gilmore was the founding editor of *The King's Tribune*. She is now a freelance journalist and a regular columnist for *The Age* and *Sydney Morning Herald*. Jane is currently completing a Master of Journalism at the University of Melbourne and has a particular interest in feminism, media and data journalism.

ISBN: 9780143795506
RRP: \$34.99
Pages: 288





Text type

Non-fiction biography and memoir

Themes

Identity and belonging, LGBTQI experience, Family, Justice, Social and political issues

General capabilities

Critical and creative thinking, Ethical understanding, Intercultural understanding, Literacy

Also available as an [audiobook](#)

ISBN: 9780143785156

RRP: \$34.99

Pages: 352



Page 52

About a Girl Rebekah Robertson

RELEASED SEPTEMBER 2019



Rebekah Robertson's extraordinary personal story of raising her transgender child, Georgie Stone, who has become a voice not just for other transgender kids – but for a whole generation.

In 2000, Rebekah Robertson gave birth to twin boys. As they grew older, their personalities began to show. Before long Georgie began to insist that she was a girl and became distressed that she had to hide who she really was when she started school. Soon the bullying started and she would come home in floods of tears, begging her mother to help her.

Rebekah and her husband's case was the start of the long road to justice for transgender children in Australia and became the basis of the 2013 landmark decision to remove the Family Court's jurisdiction.

'A remarkably intricate creation: a highly sophisticated, thrillingly allusive web of implication in which a wide range of literary and cultural references are woven together, reinforcing and counterpointing each other in fascinating and often surprising ways.' *Griffith Review*

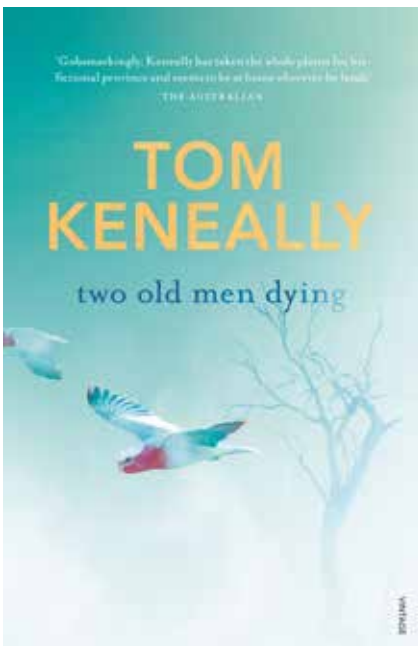
Extract

Aside from the odd cold, I had two healthy, happy kids. All the age-related milestones Harry and Georgie either met months ahead or took their own sweet time to achieve. Harry didn't walk until he was fifteen months old, perfectly content scooting about on his knees, but then he'd crawled long before Georgie, who could only go backwards once she first got mobile. Often, she'd get stuck under the couch and let out a cry of frustration.

At no point during this time was I concerned about the gender, sex or the expression of either in my two children. My main concern was not losing them at the park once they learned how hilarious it was to run in opposite directions.

About the author

Rebekah Robertson is an Australian actor and advocate who has appeared on television and on stage. In 2012, she founded the first parent-led peer support group and information hub for transgender kids and their families in Australia, Transcend. She now advocates for transgender kids and has won numerous awards for her work.



Text type
Fiction

Themes
History, Culture,
Connectedness

General capabilities
Critical and creative thinking,
Literacy, Personal and social
capability

Two Old Men Dying

Tom Keneally

RELEASED AUGUST 2019



The journeys of modern Australians alongside the imagined story of ancient Learned Man.

Learned Man is the child of humankind as we know it; of those who are thought to have travelled from the Rift Valley in Africa and to ancient Australia.

Shelby Apple is an acclaimed documentary-maker. After making films about Learned Man's discovery, in Vietnam and back home in the Northern Territory, Shelby turns his sights on Eritrea. He thinks this embattled society might represent a new cognitive leap, one that will reconcile our tenderness and our savagery, our reason and our emotions.

Shelby sees the world through the lens of his camera; Learned Man through the lens of his responsibility under law. Both men are well aware that their landscape comes to them from elders and ancestors. They are each willing to die and, in a sense, kill for their secret crafts.

Extract

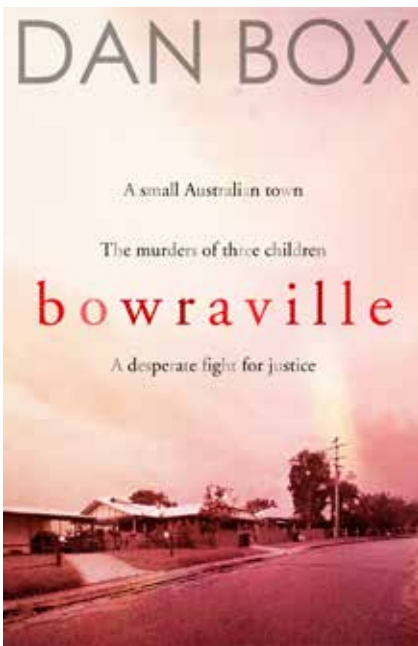
At the time of the discovery of the astonishingly ancient Learned Man, some decades back, my friend Peter Jorgensen, a scientist from Melbourne, was testing dried lake basins and their sediments for records of ancient rainfall oscillations. In modern times this area is marginal country in terms of rainfall, and the Learned Lakes are dry these days. They are not lakes in the European sense, not lakes that assert their lake-ness by brimming and thus accommodating the eye.

About the author

Thomas Keneally was born in 1935 and his first novel was published in 1964. Since then he has written a considerable number of novels and non-fiction works. He has won the Miles Franklin Award, the Booker Prize, the Los Angeles Times Prize, the Mondello International Prize and has been made a Literary Lion of the New York Public Library, a Fellow of the American Academy, recipient of the University of California gold medal, and is now the subject of a 55 cent Australian stamp.

ISBN: 9780143785422
RRP: \$19.99
Pages: 336





Text type

Non-fiction biography and memoir

Themes

Racism, Crime, Justice, Media

General capabilities

Critical and creative thinking,
Ethical understanding,
Intercultural understanding,
Literacy

Cross-curriculum priorities

Aboriginal and Torres Strait
Islander histories and cultures

Also available as an [audiobook](#)

ISBN: 9780143784395

RRP: \$34.99

Pages: 336



Bowraville

Dan Box

RELEASED JULY 2019



From the creator of the Walkley award-winning podcast comes the story of a small Australian town, the murders of three children and a desperate fight for justice.

A true crime story cannot often be believed, at least at the beginning. In Bowraville, all three of the victims were Aboriginal. All three were killed within five months, between 1990 and 1991. The same white man was linked to each, but nobody was convicted.

More than two decades later, homicide detective Gary Jubelin contacted Dan Box, asking him to pursue this serial killing. His investigation, as well as the families' own determined campaigning, forced the authorities to reconsider the killings. This account asks painful questions about what 'justice' means and how it is delivered, as well as describing Dan's own shifting, uncomfortable realisation that he was a reporter who crossed the line.

'Between every line of every page rests Dan Box's big burning heart and a vast journalistic mind that never ever stops digging for answers. And the cruelest find of all might be to know that justice is not the same thing for everyone in the lucky country.'

Trent Dalton

Extract

'How long has she been missing for?' the policeman asked her.

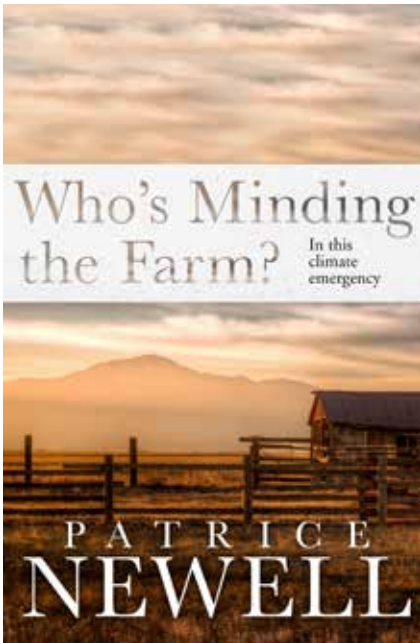
'Well, they said she was missing the Thursday night and it's Monday.'

Muriel showed the man a photograph: Colleen looking confident and beautiful, with red lips just about to smile.

'This is your daughter?' he asked her, doubtful. 'She doesn't look Aboriginal.'

About the author

Dan Box is a journalist who's worked for *The Australian* and London's *Sunday Times*. He's currently working for the BBC.



Text type
Non-fiction

Themes
Climate change, Politics,
Environment issues, Rural
living, Farming, Food security,
Business

General capabilities
Critical and creative thinking,
Ethical understanding,
Intercultural understanding,
Literacy

Cross-curriculum priorities
Sustainability

Also available as an [audiobook](#)

ISBN: 9780143789390
RRP: \$35.00
Pages: 304



Page 55

Who's Minding the Farm?

In this climate emergency

Patrice Newell

RELEASED JUNE 2019



A call to arms from Patrice Newell who has dedicated her life to land management at Elmswood in the Hunter Valley.

In an era of rapid climate change, this vital account of how agriculture can address major issues is an Australian story with global ramifications. Patrice is at the frontline of enormous challenges, from water scarcity and land stewardship to food security and the rural-urban divide. The devastation of drought and the crises created by industrial-scale chemically-dependent primary production are discussed and alternatives proposed – along with bold ideas for new sources of energy. Patrice has travelled the world exploring best practice and invested heavily in organic methods on her farm. She believes we can produce enough good food to feed the world without further environmental wreckage or loss of bio-diversity.

'A heartwarming informative and engaging account of sustainable farming down under.' Tim Flannery

Extract

We call our planet Earth, yet we don't think much about earth itself. As a proud dirt farmer, I reckon we should have a Minister for Soil. Not just a Minister for the Environment – we've plenty of those, at federal and state levels, and they rarely mention soil. When the UN formulated its seventeen Sustainable Development Goals in 2015, soil didn't rate a mention in those either. Yet soil is at the heart of achieving many of those goals, including the elimination of poverty and hunger; and clean water, sanitation and good health.

Soil: you'd think it was a dirty word.

About the author

Patrice Newell was born in Adelaide. After careers in modelling, journalism and television, she bought a farm in Gundy, NSW where she produces biodynamic olive oil, garlic, honey, soap and beef. Her books include *Ten Thousand Acres: A Love Story*, a heartfelt call for sustainable land use; *The Olive Grove*, an account of leaving the city for life on the land; and *The River*, a look at water-management issues facing rural communities.



Text type
Fiction

Themes
Gender and sexuality,
Feminism, Classic literature,
AI, Technology, Romance,
Historical fiction, Thriller

General capabilities
Critical and creative thinking,
Ethical understanding,
Intercultural understanding,
Literacy

Frankissstein Jeanette Winterson

RELEASED MAY 2019



Longlisted for the Booker Prize 2019; a riotous reimagining with an energy and passion all of its own that reanimates *Frankenstein* as a cautionary tale for a contemporary moment.

In Brexit Britain, a young transgender doctor called Ry is falling in love – against their better judgement – with Victor Stein, a celebrated professor leading the public debate around AI.

Meanwhile, Ron Lord, just divorced and living with Mum again, is set to make his fortune launching a new generation of sex dolls for lonely men everywhere.

Across the Atlantic, in Phoenix, Arizona, a cryonics facility houses dozens of bodies of men and women who are medically and legally dead . . . but waiting to return to life.

But the scene is set in 1816, when nineteen-year-old Mary Shelley writes a story about creating a non-biological life-form. 'Beware, for I am fearless and therefore powerful.'

What will happen when homo sapiens are no longer the smartest beings on the planet? Jeanette Winterson shows us how much closer we are to that future than we realise. Funny and furious, *Frankissstein* is a love story about life itself.

Extract

Then I see it. I think I see it. What do I seem to see?

A figure, gigantic, ragged, moving swiftly on the rocks above me, climbing away from me, his back turned to me, his movements sure, and at the same time hesitant, like a young dog whose paws are too big for him. I thought to call out but I confess I was afraid.

And then the vision was gone.

About the author

Jeanette Winterson CBE was born in Manchester. After graduating from Oxford University she worked for a while in the theatre and published her first novel at 25. She has since written 10 novels for adults, as well as children's books, non-fiction and screenplays. She is Professor of New Writing at the University of Manchester.

ISBN: 9781787331402
RRP: \$32.99
Pages: 352





Text type
Fiction

Themes
Alternate history, AI,
Technology, Philosophy and
ethics, Humanity

General capabilities
Critical and creative thinking,
Ethical understanding,
Intercultural understanding,
Literacy

Machines Like Me

Ian McEwan

RELEASED APRIL 2019



Britain has lost the Falklands war, Margaret Thatcher battles Tony Benn for power and Alan Turing achieves a breakthrough in artificial intelligence. In a world not quite like this one, two lovers will be tested beyond their understanding.

Machines Like Me occurs in an alternative 1980s London. Charlie, drifting through life and dodging full-time employment, is in love with Miranda, a bright student who lives with a terrible secret. When Charlie comes into money, he buys Adam, one of the first batch of synthetic humans. With Miranda's assistance, he co-designs Adam's personality. This near-perfect human is beautiful, strong and clever – a love triangle soon forms. These three beings will confront a profound moral dilemma. Ian McEwan's subversive and entertaining new novel poses fundamental questions: what makes us human? Our outward deeds or our inner lives? Could a machine understand the human heart? This provocative and thrilling tale warns of the power to invent things beyond our control.

Extract

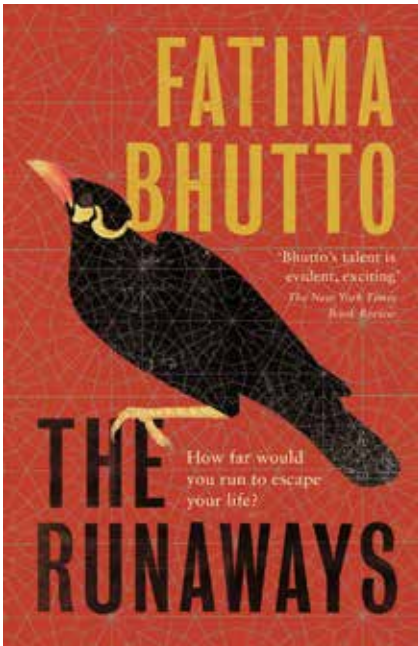
He stood before me, perfectly still in the gloom of the winter's afternoon. The debris of the packaging that had protected him was still piled around his feet. He emerged from it like Botticelli's Venus rising from her shell. Through the north-facing window, the diminishing light picked out the outlines of just one half of his form, one side of his noble face. The only sounds were the friendly murmur of the fridge and a muted drone of traffic. I had a sense then of his loneliness, settling like a weight around his muscular shoulders. He had woken to find himself in a dingy kitchen, in London SW9 in the late twentieth century, without friends, without a past or any sense of his future. He truly was alone. All the other Adams and Eves were spread about the world with their owners, though seven Eves were said to be concentrated in Riyadh.

About the author

Ian McEwan is the critically acclaimed author of seventeen books. His first published work, a collection of short stories, *First Love, Last Rites*, won the Somerset Maugham Award. His novels include *The Child in Time*, which won the 1987 Whitbread Novel of the Year Award; *The Cement Garden*; *Enduring Love*; *Amsterdam*, which won the 1998 Booker Prize; *Atonement* and many more.

ISBN: 9781787331679
RRP: \$32.99
Pages: 320





Text type
Fiction

Themes
Place, Politics, The Middle East, Islam, Identity, Radicalisation, War

General capabilities
Critical and creative thinking, Ethical understanding, Intercultural understanding, Literacy

The Runaways

Fatima Bhutto

RELEASED MARCH 2019



A compelling and moving novel that, through the eyes of three young people, explores why someone might join the war against the West.

Anita lives in Karachi's biggest slum. Her mother is a madlish wali, paid to massage the tired bones of rich women. But Anita's life will change forever when she meets her elderly neighbour, a man whose shelves of books promise an escape to a different world.

On the other side of Karachi lives Monty, whose father owns half the city and expects great things of him. But when a beautiful and rebellious girl joins his school, Monty will find his life going in a very different direction.

Sunny's father left India and went to England to give his son the opportunities he never had. Yet Sunny doesn't fit in anywhere. It's only when his charismatic cousin comes back into his life that he realises his life could hold more possibilities than he ever imagined.

These three lives will cross in the desert, a place where life and death walk hand-in-hand, and where their closely guarded secrets will force them to make a terrible choice.

Extract

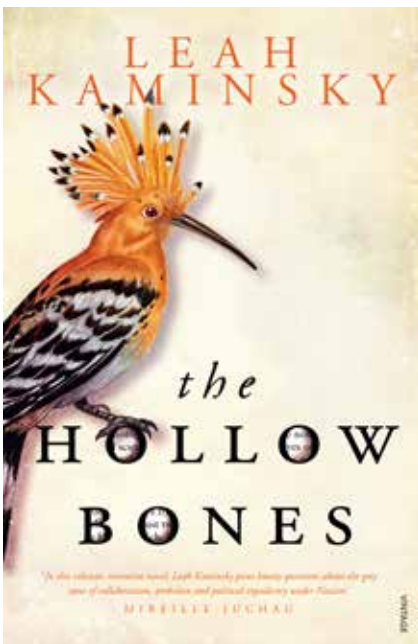
Oh ho, the poetry women used to write in the golden days of Moorish Spain,' Osama comrade sighed. Did Anita know Aisha bint Ahmad al-Qurtubiyya? A noblewoman of Cordoba, where the great mosque still calls the ghosts of its bricklayers to prayer, Aisha wrote poems to Andalusian kings. One day, when a court poet asked her to marry him, she sent him a little gift in reply. Comrade sahib folded the book, breaking its spine, and held it out for Anita to read:
I am a lioness and I will never be a man's woman.

About the author

Fatima Bhutto was born in Kabul, Afghanistan in 1982. She grew up in Syria and Pakistan. She is the author of four previous books, most recently the highly acclaimed *The Shadow of the Crescent Moon* which was longlisted in 2014 for the Bailey's Women's Prize for Fiction.

ISBN: 9780241347003
RRP: \$32.99
Pages: 432





Text type
Fiction

Themes
The Holocaust, WWII,
Relationships, Ambition,
Environment

General capabilities
Critical and creative thinking,
Ethical understanding,
Intercultural understanding,
Literacy

Cross-curriculum priorities
Sustainability

Discussion points
penguin.com.au/book-clubs

The Hollow Bones

Leah Kaminsky

RELEASED MARCH 2019



***The Hollow Bones* implores us to pay careful attention to the crucial lessons we might learn from our not-too-distant history.**

Berlin, 1936. Ernst Schäfer, a young, ambitious zoologist and keen hunter and collector, has come to the attention of Heinrich Himmler, who invites him to lead a group of SS scientists to the frozen mountains of Tibet. Their secret mission: to search for the origins of the Aryan race. Ernst has doubts initially, but soon seizes the opportunity to rise through the ranks of the Third Reich.

While Ernst prepares for the trip, he marries Herta, his childhood sweetheart. But Herta, a flautist who refuses to play from the songbook of womanhood and marriage under the Reich, grows increasingly suspicious of Ernst and his expedition. When Ernst and his colleagues finally leave Germany in 1938, they realise the world has its eyes fixed on the horror they have left behind in their homeland.

'From the embers of history, Kaminsky weaves a cracking tale of adventure, competing loyalties and the folly of sacrificing reason on the ideological altar.' **Bram Presser**

Extract

Ernst wriggled in his seat, smoothing down his froth of sandy-blond hair, uncertain whether a smile was appropriate under the circumstances. The office at Prinz-Albrecht-Strasse 8, the site of a former baroque palace, looked austere furnished. On the desk were a brass lamp and a neat pile of papers, with fountain pens lined up in a row like soldiers at a drill.

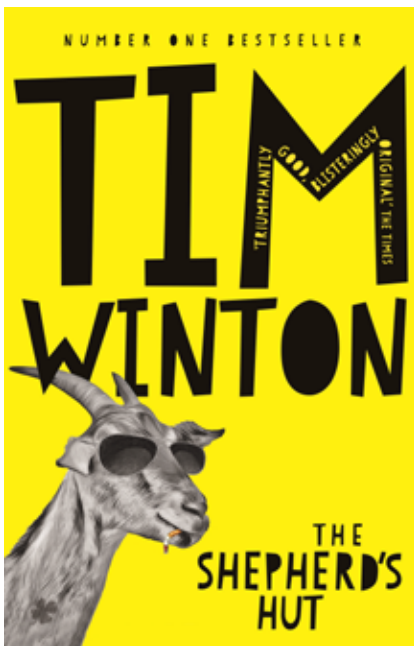
'I am so glad you have returned home, my boy. I shall be very pleased to be your mentor. After all, I am a great patron of the sciences,' he cawed, in a pantomime of exaggerated politeness. 'And I am a collector, too.'

About the author

Leah Kaminsky is a physician and award-winning writer. Her debut novel, *The Waiting Room*, won the prestigious Voss Literary Prize. She conceived and edited *Writer MD*, a collection of prominent physician-writers, which starred on *Booklist* and is co-author of *Cracking the Code*, with the Damiani family.

ISBN: 9780143788911
RRP: \$32.99
Pages: 336





Text type
Fiction

Themes
Coming of age, Empathy,
Life and death, Man vs
environment, Masculinity,
Nature vs nurture, Self-
discovery, Social attitudes

General capabilities
Critical and creative thinking,
Ethical understanding,
Literacy, Personal and social
capability

Units of work
penguin.com.au/teachers

Discussion points
penguin.com.au/book-clubs

**CONTAINS STRONG
LANGUAGE and SEXUAL
REFERENCES**

ISBN: 9780143795490
RRP: \$22.99
Pages: 288



Page 60

The Shepherd's Hut

Tim Winton



RELEASED MARCH 2019

A rifle-shot of a novel – crisp, fast, shocking – *The Shepherd's Hut* is an urgent masterpiece about solitude, unlikely friendship, and the raw business of survival.

Jaxie dreads going home. His mum's dead. The old man bashes him without mercy, and he wishes he was an orphan. But no one's ever told Jaxie Clackton to be careful what he wishes for.

In one terrible moment his life is stripped to little more than what he can carry and how he can keep himself alive. There's just one person left in the world who understands him and what he still dares to hope for. But to reach her he'll have to cross the vast saltlands on a trek that only a dreamer or a fugitive would attempt.

'The novel is an Antipodean Huckleberry Finn . . . its narrative drive makes The Shepherd's Hut a powerful experience.'
Australian Book Review

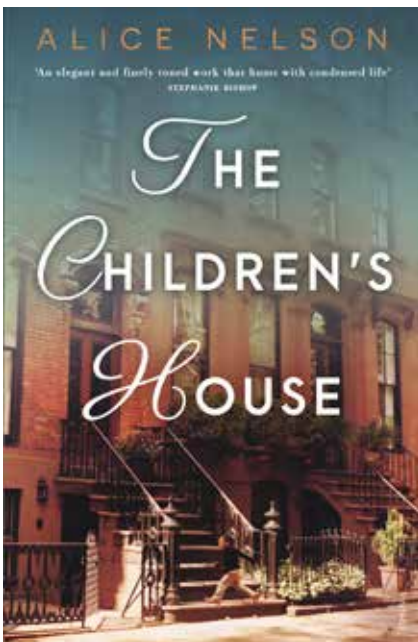
'We come to Tim Winton because there is always something true in what he writes . . . He is Australia's truth teller and (this) is truth at its most brutal.' *Nine Honey*

Extract

When I hit the bitumen and get that smooth grey rumble going under me everything's hell different. Like I'm in a fresh new world all slick and flat and easy. Even with the engine working up a howl and the wind flogging in the window the sounds are real soft and pillowy. Civilized I mean. Like you're still on the earth but you don't hardly notice it anymore. And that's hectic. You'd think I never got in a car before. But when you've hoofed it like a dirty goat all these weeks and months, when you've had the stony slow prickly-up hard country right in your face that long it's bloody sudden. Some crazy shit, I tell you. Brings on this angel feeling. Like you're just one arrow of light.

About the author

Tim Winton has published twenty-nine books for adults and children, and his work has been translated into twenty-eight languages.



Text type
Fiction

Themes
Refugee experience, Trauma, Family

General capabilities
Critical and creative thinking, Ethical understanding, Intercultural understanding, Literacy

Discussion points
penguin.com.au/book-clubs

Also available as an [audiobook](#)

ISBN: 9780143791188
RRP: \$32.99
Pages: 304



The Children's House

Alice Nelson

RELEASED OCTOBER 2018



Reminiscent of Colm Toibin's *Brooklyn*, this is a breakthrough novel from a humane and perceptive writer exploring the traumas that divide families and the love and hope that creates them.

A love song to the idea of families in all their mysteries and complexities, their different configurations and the hope that creates them. Marina and her husband, Jacob, were each born on a kibbutz in Israel. They meet years later at a university in California, when Jacob is a successful psychiatrist with a young son, Ben, from a disastrous marriage. The family moves to a brownstone in Harlem, formerly a convent inhabited by elderly nuns.

Outside the house one day Marina encounters Constance, a young refugee from Rwanda, and her toddler, Gabriel. Unmoored and devastated, Constance and Gabriel quickly come to depend on Marina; and her bond with the little boy intensifies. The pure, blinding love that it is possible to feel for children not our own is the thread that weaves through *The Children's House*.

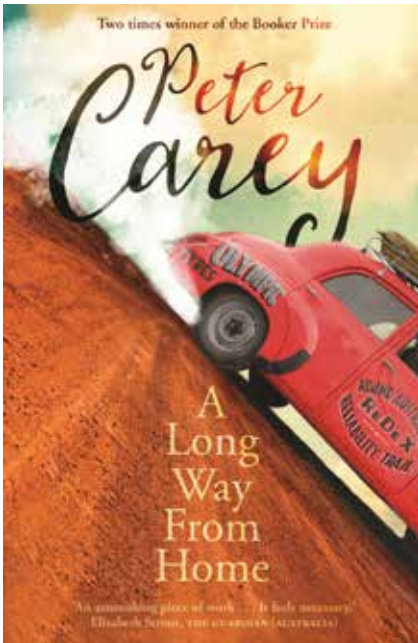
'An outstanding novel, written with exquisite lyricism, multiple metaphorical threads, sophisticated structuring and deep empathy for the world's discarded and forgotten people'
The Australian

Extract

Feed my lambs, Jesus said. She murmurs it to herself as she holds the bottle to the child's mouth, trying for the lilt she remembers in the voice of a long-ago pastor. My lamb. The wind at the glass takes the sound of her voice and tosses it away like a scrap of fabric. Winter in the sky, the cold a tiny stab in her bones. Outside, these strange trees that throw their leaves away. A flock of birds rises up above the marsh, a dark arrow pointing the way.

About the author

After university in Australia, Alice Nelson lived and worked in Harlem, living in the brownstone on 120th Street in which *The Children's House* is set. While studying in New York, she worked at a non-profit agency run by an order of nuns as a case worker with refugee and undocumented migrant families. Alice now lives in Perth.



A Long Way From Home

Peter Carey

RELEASED JULY 2018



Australia's master novelist takes us on the race of a lifetime. Peter Carey has twice won the Booker Prize for his explorations of Australian history. *A Long Way from Home* is his late-style masterpiece.

Text type
Fiction

Themes
Australian history, Culture and identity

General capabilities
Critical and creative thinking,
Ethical understanding,
Intercultural understanding,
Literacy

Discussion points
penguin.com.au/book-clubs

Irene Bobs loves fast driving. Her husband is the best car salesman in western Victoria. Together they enter the Redex Trial, a brutal race around the ancient continent over roads no car will ever quite survive.

With them is their lanky fair-haired navigator, Willie Bachhuber, a quiz show champion and failed schoolteacher whose job it is to call out the turns, the grids and the creek crossings on a map that will finally remove them, without warning, from the lily-white Australia they know so well.

Set in the 1950s, this lively novel reminds us how Europeans took possession of a timeless culture – the high purpose they invented and the crimes they committed along the way.

***'An astonishing piece of work: so Peter Carey, and yet completely on its own . . . it feels necessary.'* The Guardian**

Extract

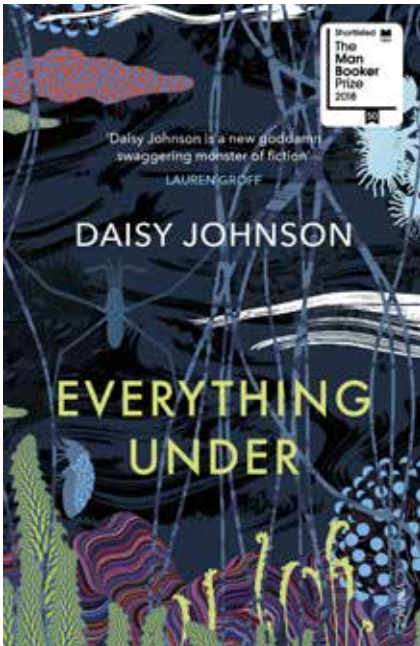
How could I predict, dear Beverly, what sort of life my heart's desire would lead me to? Our dad was still alive on the day I first set eyes on Titch. My babies were not yet born. I couldn't drive a car. We had not yet arrived at the era of Holden Versus Ford. There was not even a Redex Around Australia Reliability Trial although that, the greatest Australian car race of the century, is the story I will get to in the end.

About the author

Peter Carey was born in Bacchus Marsh, Victoria, and now lives in New York. He is the author of fourteen novels (including one for children), two volumes of short stories, and two books on travel. Amongst other prizes, Carey has won the Booker Prize twice (for *Oscar and Lucinda* and *True History of the Kelly Gang*), the Commonwealth Writers' Prize twice (for *Jack Maggs* and *True History of the Kelly Gang*), and the Miles Franklin Literary Award three times (for *Bliss*, *Oscar and Lucinda* and *Jack Maggs*).

ISBN: 9780143790389
RRP: \$19.99
Pages: 368





Text type
Fiction

Themes
Classical myth, Gender and sexuality

General capabilities
Critical and creative thinking,
Ethical understanding,
Intercultural understanding,
Literacy

Everything Under Daisy Johnson

RELEASED JULY 2018



The novel that saw Daisy Johnson become the youngest author ever to be shortlisted for the Man Booker Prize.

It's been sixteen years since Gretel last saw her mother, half a lifetime to forget her childhood on the canals. But a phone call will soon reunite them, and bring those wild years flooding back: the secret language that Gretel and her mother invented; the strange boy, Marcus, living on the boat that final winter; the creature said to be underwater, swimming ever closer.

In the end there will be nothing for Gretel to do but to wade deeper into their past, where family secrets and aged prophecies will all come tragically alive again.

'Everything Under is a force of nature... Like Iris Murdoch's 1954 novel *Under the Net*, Johnson's Man Booker Prize finalist is concerned with language, secrets and the damage wrought by what's left unsaid.' *New York Times Book Review*

Extract

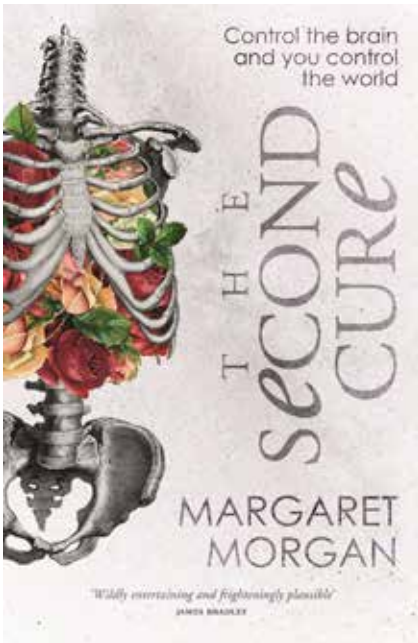
The places we are born come back. They disguise themselves as migraines, stomach aches, insomnia. They are the way we sometimes wake falling, fumbling for the bedside lamp, certain everything we've built has gone in the night. We become strangers to the places we are born. They would not recognise us but we will always recognise them. They are marrow to us; they are bred into us. If we were turned inside out there would be maps cut into the wrong side of our skin. Just so we could find our way back. Except, cut wrong side into my skin are not canals and train tracks and a boat, but always: you.

About the author

Daisy Johnson was born in 1990. Her debut short-story collection, *Fen*, was published in 2016. In 2018 she became the youngest author ever to be shortlisted for the Man Booker Prize with her debut novel *Everything Under*. She is the winner of the Harper's Bazaar Short Story Prize, the A. M. Heath Prize and the Edge Hill Short Story Prize. She currently lives in Oxford by the river.

ISBN: 9781784702113
RRP: \$19.99
Pages: 272





Text type Fiction

Themes

Science fiction, Biology,
Politics, Extremism, Religion,
Belief, Family

General capabilities

Critical and creative thinking,
Ethical understanding,
Intercultural understanding,
Literacy

Discussion points

penguin.com.au/book-clubs

The Second Cure

Margaret Morgan

RELEASED JULY 2018



Control the brain and you control the world. In a fractured nation, two women are left with a choice – risk all to bring humanity together or let it fall apart.

A pandemic is racing through our world, changing people subtly but irrevocably. The first sign for some is losing their faith. For others it comes as violent outpourings of creativity, reckless driving and seeing visions.

Scientist Charlotte Zinn is close to a cure when her partner becomes infected. Overnight her understanding of the disease is turned upside down. Should she change the path of evolution?

As Australia is torn apart, reporter Brigid Bayliss is determined to uncover the dark truth behind the religious response to the outbreak. Brigid and Charlotte find themselves on the frontline of a world splintering into far left and far right, with unexpected power to change the course of history. But at what cost?

'Like most good sci-fi, The Second Cure uses present dilemmas to pose fundamental questions about what it means to be human.' *The Australian*

Extract

The space between was the worst. Worse than the repetition. Worse than the volume – so loud that she felt it everywhere: in her eyeballs, in her gut, juddering deep in the base of her spine. Worse, even, than the light strobing and blazing and bouncing from the white walls and around her brain, day and night.

Not that day and night meant anything any more. That was the point.

About the author

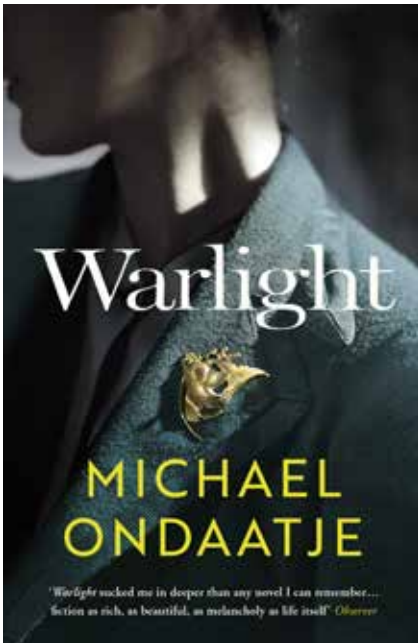
After practising in criminal law, Margaret became a professional screenwriter and script editor in television for many well-regarded Australian drama series (*Water Rats/A Country Practice/GP*). Margaret recently completed a bachelor's degree in Advanced Science in Biology at Macquarie University. While studying, she won a prize for popular science writing in an international competition judged by Professor Richard Dawkins.

ISBN: 9780143790235

RRP: \$32.99

Pages: 384





Text type
Fiction

Themes
Memory, Trauma, World War II, Family

General capabilities
Critical and creative thinking,
Ethical understanding,
Intercultural understanding,
Literacy

Warlight Michael Ondaatje

RELEASED MAY 2018



'Our book of the year – and maybe of Ondaatje's career' *Daily Telegraph* Books of the Year; Longlisted for the Man Booker Prize 2018; Finalist for the LA Time Book Prize.

It is 1945, and London is still reeling from the Blitz. 14-year-old Nathaniel and his sister, Rachel, are apparently abandoned by their parents, left in the care of an enigmatic figure named The Moth. They suspect he might be a criminal, and grow both more convinced and less concerned as they get to know his eccentric crew of friends: men and women all who seem determined to protect Rachel and Nathaniel. But are they really what and who they claim to be? A dozen years later, Nathaniel journeys through recollection, reality and imagination to uncover all he didn't know or understand in that time, to piece together a story that feels something like the truth.

'From the very first sentence you're desperate to find out what happens next... All is slowly, tantalisingly revealed, in flashbacks, fragments, digressions and stories within stories, narrated in majestic Ondaatjean style.'* *New Statesman

Extract

In 1945 our parents went away and left us in the care of two men who may have been criminals. We were living on a street in London called Ruvigny Gardens, and one morning either our mother or our father suggested that after breakfast the family have a talk, and they told us that they would be leaving us and going to Singapore for a year. Not too long, they said, but it would not be a brief trip either. We would of course be well cared for in their absence. I remember our father was sitting on one of those uncomfortable iron garden chairs as he broke the news, while our mother, in a summer dress just behind his shoulder, watched how we responded. After a while she took my sister Rachel's hand and held it against her waist, as if she could give it warmth.

About the author

Michael Ondaatje is the author of several novels, as well as a memoir, a non fiction book on film, and several books of poetry. Among his many Canadian and international recognitions, his novel *The English Patient* won the Booker Prize, and was adapted into a multi-award winning Oscar movie; and *Anil's Ghost* won the Giller Prize, the Irish Times International Fiction Prize, and the Prix Médicis.

ISBN: 9781784708344
RRP: \$19.99
Pages: 304





Text type

Non-fiction biography and memoir

Themes

Society and culture, War, Multiculturalism, Identity and belonging, Family

General capabilities

Critical and creative thinking, Ethical understanding, Intercultural understanding, Literacy

Miss Ex-Yugoslavia

Sofia Stefanovic

RELEASED APRIL 2018



Unpolished Gem with a touch of Stasiland: a funny, dark and tender memoir about growing up between the lunacy of Yugoslavia's civil war and suburban Australia.

Sofija Stefanovic was born into a country destined to collapse. With Yugoslavia on the brink of war, her family was torn between the socialist existence they'd always known and the pull of stability on offer in the distant land of Australia.

Sofija's family spent her childhood moving back and forth between Australia and Yugoslavia, unable to settle in one home. The war that had been brewing started to rage, and the pain and madness it caused stretched all the way to Melbourne, where Sofija found herself part of a strange community of ex-Yugoslavians. Then, as the Yugoslav Wars moved towards their brutal conclusion, her family faced their own private and desperate battle. Suddenly the world was turned upside-down all over again.

'A coming-of-age memoir that brims with warmth, curiosity and a genuine affection for commonplace family drama... Bursting at the seams with contradictions and comedy.'

Bookseller+Publisher

Extract

I wouldn't normally enter a beauty pageant, but this one is special. It's a battle for the title of Miss Ex-Yugoslavia, beauty queen of a country that no longer exists. It is due to the country being 'no more' that our shoddy little contest is happening in Australia, over 12,000 kilometres from where Yugoslavia once stood. My fellow competitors and I are immigrants and refugees, coming from different sides of the conflict that split Yugoslavia up. It's a weird idea for a competition - bringing young women from a war-torn country together to be objectified - but, in our little diaspora, we're used to contradictions.

About the author

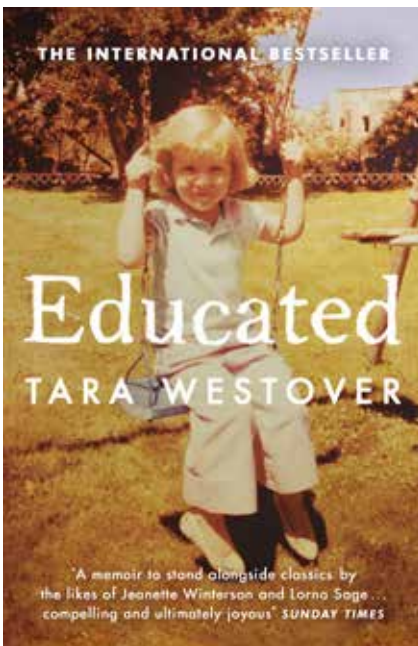
Sofija Stefanovic is a Serbian-Australian writer and storyteller based in New York. She hosts the popular literary salon, *Women of Letters New York*, and *This Alien Nation* – a monthly celebration of immigration. Her writing has appeared in *The New York Times*, *Guardian.com*, and *Elle.com*, among others.

ISBN: 9780143785453

RRP: \$34.99

Pages: 288





Text type
Non-fiction biography

Themes
Memoir, Family, Trauma,
Education

General capabilities
Critical and creative thinking,
Ethical understanding,
Intercultural understanding,
Literacy

Educated Tara Westover

RELEASED FEBRUARY 2018



Shortlisted for the 2018 BAMB Readers Awards; Recommended as a summer read by Barack Obama, Antony Beevor, India Knight, Blake Morrison and Nina Stibbe.

Tara Westover and her family grew up preparing for the End of Days but, according to the government, she didn't exist. She hadn't been registered for a birth certificate. She had no school records because she'd never set foot in a classroom, and no medical records because her father didn't believe in hospitals.

As she grew older, her father became more radical and her brother more violent. At sixteen, Tara knew she had to leave home. In doing so she discovered both the transformative power of education, and the price she had to pay for it.

Extract

I am only seven, but I understand that it is this fact, more than any other, that makes my family different: we don't go to school.

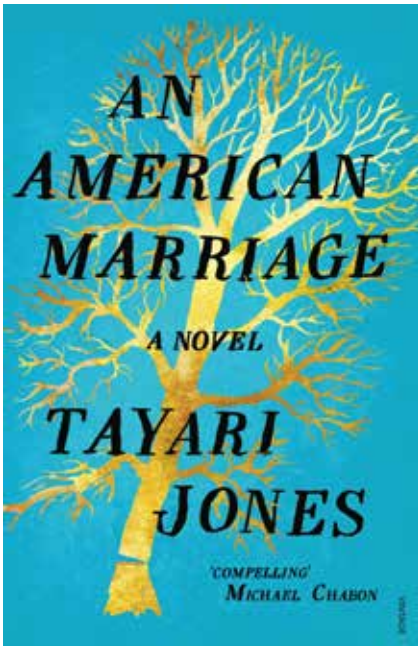
Dad worries that the Government will force us to go but it can't, because it doesn't know about us. Four of my parents' seven children don't have birth certificates. We have no medical records because we were born at home and have never seen a doctor or nurse. We have no school records because we've never set foot in a classroom. When I am nine, I will be issued a Delayed Certificate of Birth, but at this moment, according to the state of Idaho and the federal government, I do not exist.

About the author

Tara Westover was born in rural Idaho. She studied history at Brigham Young University and upon graduation was awarded a Gates Cambridge Scholarship. She received an MPhil in intellectual history from Trinity College, Cambridge in 2009, and a PhD in the same subject in 2014.

ISBN: 9780099511021
RRP: \$19.99
Pages: 400





Text type
Fiction

Themes
Relationships, Justice, Racism, Marriage

General capabilities
Critical and creative thinking,
Ethical understanding,
Intercultural understanding,
Literacy

An American Marriage **Tayari Jones**

RELEASED JANUARY 2018



The instant New York Times bestseller!
Winner of the 2019 Women's Prize for Fiction . . .
An explosive love story about a marriage interrupted.

Newlyweds, Celestial and Roy, are the embodiment of both the American Dream and the New South. He is a young executive and she is an artist on the brink of an exciting career. They are settling into the routine of their life together, when they are ripped apart by circumstances neither could have imagined. Roy is arrested and sentenced to twelve years for a crime Celestial knows he didn't commit.

Though fiercely independent, Celestial finds herself bereft and unmoored, taking comfort in Andre, her childhood friend, and best man at their wedding. After five years, Roy's conviction is suddenly overturned, and he returns to Atlanta ready to resume their life together.

'A heartbreaking and genuinely suspenseful love story in which nobody's wrong and everybody's wounded.' Tom Perrotta

Extract

There are two kinds of people in the world, those who leave home, and those who don't. I'm a proud member of the first category. My wife, Celestial, used to say that I'm a country boy at the core, but I never cared for that designation.

For one, I'm not from the country per se. Elsie, Louisiana, is a small town. When you hear "country," you think raising crops, baling hay, and milking cows. Never in my life have I picked a single cotton boll, although my daddy did. I have never touched a horse, goat, or pig, nor have I any desire to.

Celestial used to laugh, clarifying that she's not saying I'm a farmer, just country.

About the author

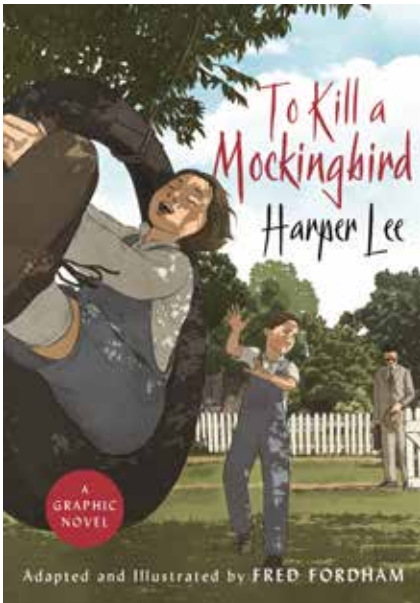
Tayari Jones is the author of four novels, including *Silver Sparrow*, *The Untelling*, and *Leaving Atlanta*. Jones holds degrees from Spelman College, Arizona State University, and the University of Iowa.

ISBN: 9781760894313
RRP: \$19.99
Pages: 320



Graphic Novels





Text type
Fiction

Themes
American Civil Rights movement, Justice, Prejudice, Racism

General capabilities
Critical and creative thinking, Literacy, Personal and social capability

To Kill a Mockingbird

Harper Lee and Fred Fordham



GRAPHIC NOVEL RELEASED NOVEMBER 2018

A beautifully crafted graphic novel adaptation of Harper Lee's beloved American classic.

'Shoot all the bluejays you want, if you can hit 'em, but remember it's a sin to kill a mockingbird.'

A haunting portrait of race and class, innocence and injustice, hypocrisy and heroism, tradition and transformation in the Deep South of the 1930s, Harper Lee's *To Kill a Mockingbird* remains as important today as it was upon its initial publication in 1960, during the turbulent years of the Civil Rights movement.

Now, this most beloved and acclaimed novel is reborn for a new age as a gorgeous graphic novel. Scout, Jem, Boo Radley, Atticus Finch and the small town of Maycomb, Alabama, are all captured in vivid and moving illustrations by artist Fred Fordham.

Enduring in vision, Harper Lee's timeless novel illuminates the complexities of human nature and the depths of the human heart with humour, unwavering honesty and a tender, nostalgic beauty. Lifetime admirers and new readers alike will be touched by this special visual edition.

About the author

Harper Lee was born in 1926 in Monroeville, Alabama. She attended Huntington College and studied law at the University of Alabama. She was awarded the Pulitzer Prize, the Presidential Medal of Freedom and numerous other literary awards and honours. She died on 19 February 2016.

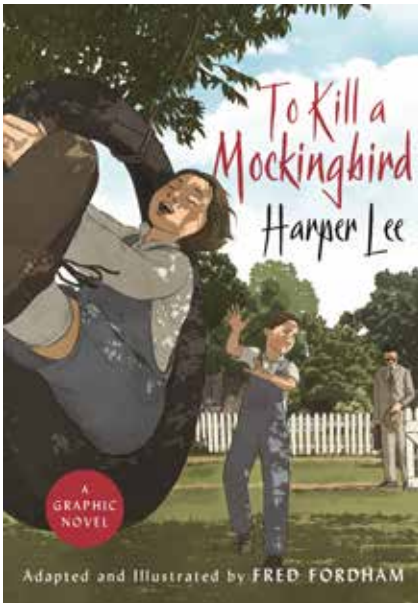
About the illustrator

Fred Fordham was born in 1985 and grew up in north London. Before beginning work in comics and graphic novels he worked as a traditional portrait painter and muralist. His first published work in the medium appeared in France and he has since written and illustrated stories for various publications.

See the next page for sample spreads.

ISBN: 9781785151552
RRP: \$35.00
Pages: 288





To Kill a Mockingbird

**Harper Lee and
Fred Fordham**



GRAPHIC NOVEL RELEASED NOVEMBER 2018

A beautifully crafted graphic novel adaptation of Harper Lee's beloved American classic.

Text type
Fiction

Themes

American Civil Rights movement, Justice, Prejudice, Racism

General capabilities

Critical and creative thinking,
Literacy, Personal and social
capability

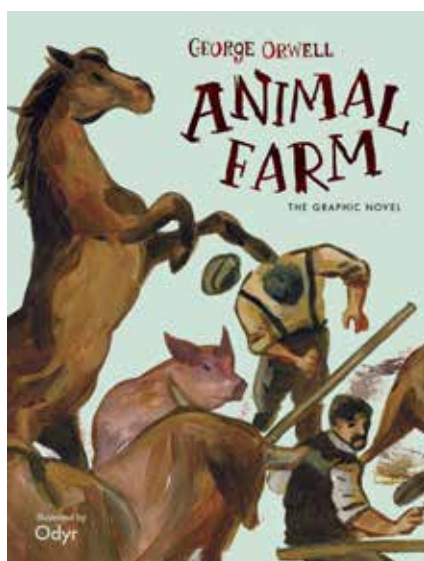


ISBN: 9781785151552

RRP: \$35.00

Pages: 288





Text type
Graphic Novel

Themes
Power, Socialism, Soviet Union, Society, Corruption, Allegory

General capabilities
Critical and creative thinking, Ethical understanding, Intercultural understanding, Literacy

Animal Farm

Graphic Novel

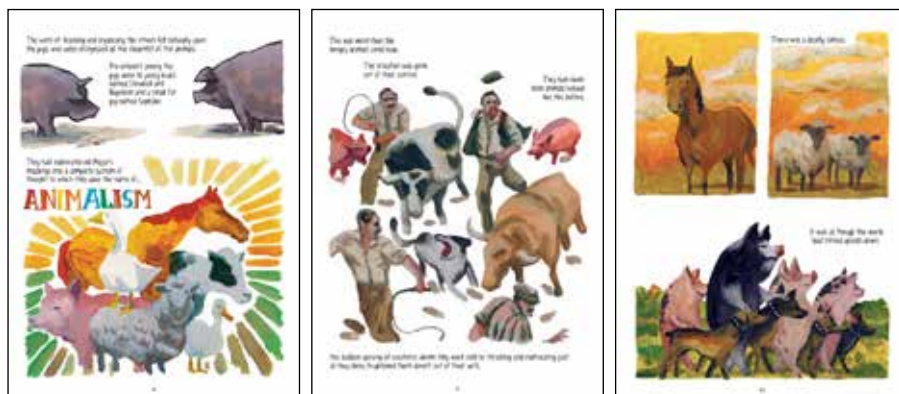
George Orwell



RELEASED SEPTEMBER 2019

The first ever graphic novel treatment of Orwell's seminal fable.

When the downtrodden animals of Manor Farm overthrow their master Mr Jones and take over the farm themselves, they imagine it is the beginning of a life of freedom and equality. But gradually a cunning, ruthless elite, masterminded by the pigs Napoleon and Snowball, starts to take control. Soon the other animals find themselves hopelessly ensnared as one form of tyranny is replaced with another . . .



About the author

George Orwell (1903–1950) is one of England's most famous writers and social commentators. He is the author of the classic political satire *Animal Farm* and the dystopian masterpiece *Nineteen Eighty-Four*. He is also well known for his essays and journalism, particularly his works covering his travels and his time fighting in the Spanish Civil War. His writing is celebrated for its piercing clarity, purpose and wit and his books continue to be bestsellers all over the world.

ISBN: 9780241391846

RRP: \$39.99

Pages: 176





Text type
Graphic Novel

Themes
Friendship, Acceptance,
World War II, Holocaust

General capabilities
Critical and creative thinking,
Ethical understanding,
Intercultural understanding,
Literacy

White Bird

Graphic Novel

RJ Palacio



RELEASED OCTOBER 2019

A Wonder story.

A powerful, unforgettable graphic novel from the world of *Wonder*, by globally bestselling and award-winning author R J Palacio.

To the millions of readers who fell in love with R J Palacio's *Wonder*, Julian is best-known as Auggie Pullman's classroom bully. *White Bird* reveals a new side to Julian's story, as Julian discovers the moving and powerful tale of his grandmother, who was hidden from the Nazis as a young Jewish girl in occupied France during the Second World War.

An unforgettable, unputdownable story about strength, courage and the power of kindness to change hearts, build bridges, and even save lives, from the globally bestselling author of *Wonder*.



About the author

R. J. Palacio is a graphic designer by day and a writer by night. She lives in New York City with her family and a black dog called Bear.

ISBN: 9780241397244

RRP: \$39.99

Pages: 224





Text type
Fiction

Themes
Religion, Repression,
Modernity, Nationalism,
Violence, Justice, Forgiveness,
War, Gender issues, Politics

General capabilities
Critical and creative thinking,
Ethical understanding,
Literacy, Intercultural
understanding

Persepolis I & II Marjane Satrapi

RELEASED MAY 2008

Now in one volume, both parts of *Persepolis*, Marjane Satrapi's brilliant memoir-in-comic-strips about growing up in Iran during and after the Islamic revolution.

Wise, often funny, sometimes heartbreaking, *Persepolis: The Story of a Childhood* tells the story of Marjane Satrapi's life in Tehran from the ages of six to fourteen, years that saw the overthrow of the Shah's regime, the triumph of the Islamic Revolution and the devastating effects of war with Iraq. The intelligent and outspoken child of radical Marxists, and the great-granddaughter of Iran's last emperor, Satrapi bears witness to a childhood uniquely entwined with the history of her country.

In *Persepolis 2: The Story of a Return* we follow our young, intrepid heroine through the next eight years of her life: an eye-opening and sometimes lonely four years of high school in Vienna, followed by a supremely educational and heart wrenching four years back home in Iran.

'The magic of Marjane Satrapi's work is that it can condense a whole country's tragedy into one poignant, funny scene after another.' Natasha Walker, *Independent on Sunday*



About the author

Marjane Satrapi was born in 1969 in Rasht, Iran. She now lives in Paris where she is a regular contributor to magazines and newspapers throughout the world, including the New Yorker and the New York Times. She is the author of several children's books, as well as the critically acclaimed and internationally bestselling memoir *Persepolis*, which has been translated into twelve languages, and was awarded the first Fernando Bueso Blanco Peace Prize in Spain.

ISBN: 9780099523994

RRP: \$19.99

Pages: 352



Popular Picks





Text type
Fiction

Themes

History - WWII, Relationships, Society, Personal and social ethics

General capabilities

Language, Literature, Literacy, Critical and creative thinking, Personal and social capability, Ethical understanding

Units of work

penguin.com.au/teachers

The Boy and the Spy

Felice Arena

RELEASED APRIL 2017



A thrilling wartime story from the bestselling author of the Specky Magee series.

Life has never been easy for Antonio, but since the war began there are German soldiers on every corner, fearsome gangsters and the fascist police everywhere, and no one ever has enough to eat. But when Antonio decides to trust a man who has literally fallen from the sky, he leaps into an adventure that will change his life and maybe even the future of Sicily ...

'The Boy and the Spy ... is a fast-paced and exciting book that will have you eagerly turning each page to find out just what happens next.' Alan Edwards, *Bookshelf*

Extract

The boy is running as fast as he can.

And right behind him is a German soldier.

They charge through a flock of flapping pigeons.

'Halt! Halt!' the soldier bellows. He yells at the boy to stop, first in German, then Italian. 'Did you hear me? Stop, or I will shoot!'

But the boy doesn't stop. In fact, he runs faster, his scuffed and well-worn shoes pounding hard on the cobblestones.

About the author

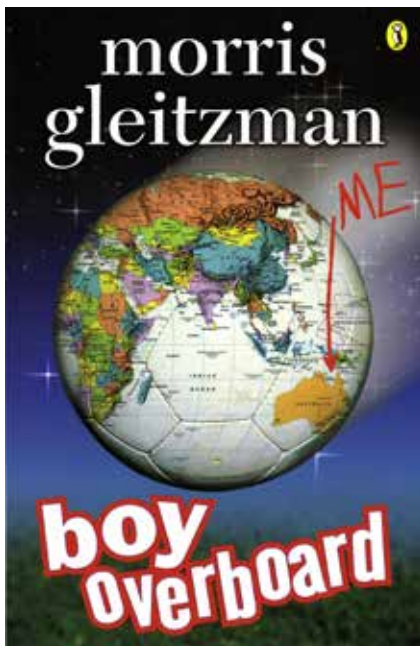
Felice Arena is the author and creator of many popular and award-winning children's books for all ages, including the acclaimed historical adventures *The Boy and the Spy* and *Fearless Frederic*, the bestselling Specky Magee books and the popular Andy Roid and Sporty Kids series.

Don't miss Felice's other historical novels, [Fearless Frederic](#) and [A Great Escape](#)



ISBN: 9780143309284
RRP: \$16.99
Pages: 176





Text type
Fiction

Themes
Refugees, Family, Belonging,
Afghanistan

General capabilities
Critical and creative thinking,
Ethical understanding,
Intercultural understanding,
Literacy

Cross-curriculum priorities
Asia and Australia's
engagement with Asia

Unit of work
penguin.com.au/teachers

ISBN: 9780141308388
RRP: \$16.99
Pages: 208



Boy Overboard

Morris Gleitzman

RELEASED AUGUST 2002



**Winner of the YABBA, KOALA and COOL
Children's Choice Awards in 2010 and nominated for
countless others since.**

A story of adventure, ball control and hope.

Jamal and Bibi have a dream. To lead Australia to soccer glory in the next World Cup.

But first they must face landmines, pirates, storms and assassins.

Can Jamal and his family survive their incredible journey and get to Australia?

Sometimes, to save the people you love, you have to go overboard.

Extract

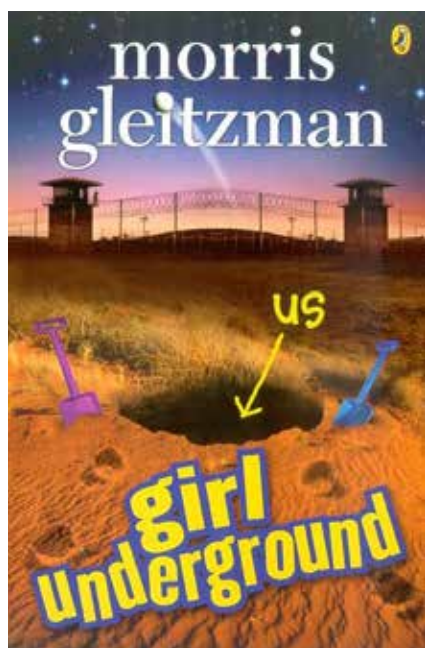
Bibi ignores him. 'I'm sick of being stuck indoors,' she says. 'I want to play soccer. Come on, you soft lumps of camel poop, tackle me.'

The others are still backing away and looking at me and I realised I have to do something. This person putting us all in danger is a member of my family.

My first thought is to yell at her. Then I remember she's only nine. Two years ago I used to get distracted and forget things too. Bibi must have forgotten that girls aren't allowed to leave the house without a parent. She must have forgotten that females have to keep their faces covered at all times out of doors. And it must have slipped her mind that girls playing soccer is completely, totally and absolutely against the law.

About the author

Morris Gleitzman grew up in England and came to Australia when he was sixteen. After university he worked for ten years as a screenwriter. Then he had a wonderful experience. He wrote a novel for young people. Now, after 40 books, he's one of Australia's most popular authors. He was appointed the Australian Children's Laureate for 2018-2019.



Text type
Fiction

Themes
Refugees, Family, Belonging, Afghanistan

General capabilities
Critical and creative thinking,
Ethical understanding,
Intercultural understanding,
Literacy

Cross-curriculum priorities
Asia and Australia's
engagement with Asia

Girl Underground

Morris Gleitzman

RELEASED JUNE 2004



Winner of the YABBA and KOALA Children's Choice Awards in 2011 and shortlisted for four other awards.

A story of friendship, courage and a bit of crime.

Bridget wants a quiet life. Including, if possible, keeping her parents out of prison. Then a boy called Menzies makes her an offer she can't refuse, and they set off on a job of their own. It's a desperate, daring plan – to rescue two kids, Jamal and Bibi, from a desert detention centre.

Can Bridget and Menzies pull off their very first jail break, or will they end up behind bars too?

Sometimes, to help a friend, you have to dig deep.

Extract

I should be arrested for this.

The time is approximately 4:17pm and I'm proceeding in an easterly direction along a corridor in one of Australia's most seriously top-notch boarding schools.

'Look at this floor,' says Mum. 'Genuine marble.'

'These wall panels are oak,' says Dad. 'Real wood.'

'Solid brass chandeliers,' says Uncle Grub, his leather jacket creaking as he gazes upwards. 'Pity I didn't bring the van.'

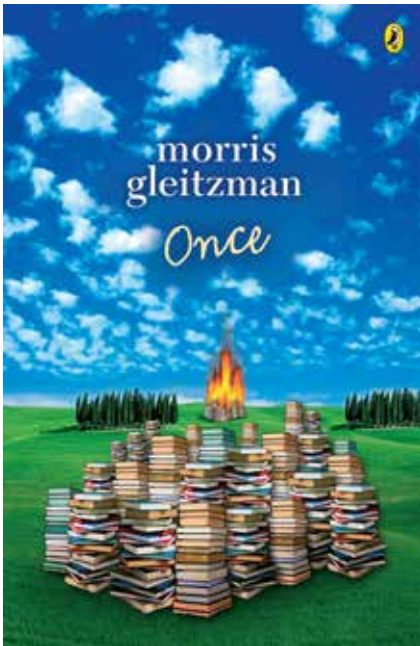
I know I should be thrilled like they are. I wish I was. But instead I just feel anxious.

About the author

Morris Gleitzman grew up in England and came to Australia when he was sixteen. After university he worked for ten years as a screenwriter. Then he had a wonderful experience. He wrote a novel for young people. Now, after 40 books, he's one of Australia's most popular authors. He was appointed the Australian Children's Laureate for 2018-2019.

ISBN: 9780143300465
RRP: \$16.99
Pages: 208





Text type
Fiction

Themes

Abuse of power, Human rights, Loss and grief, Morality, Racism, Tolerance, War

General capabilities

Critical and creative thinking, Ethical understanding, Intercultural understanding, Literacy, Personal and social capability

Units of work

penguin.com.au/teachers

readingaustralia.com.au

Once

Morris Gleitzman

RELEASED AUGUST 2005



The multi-award-winning Felix series continues in *Then, Now, After, Soon* and the new release, *Maybe*.

Once I escaped from an orphanage to find my Mum and Dad.

Once I saved a girl called Zelda from a burning house.

Once I made a Nazi with toothache laugh.

My name is Felix.

This is my story.

'Gleitzman allows readers to draw conclusions before Felix does, making poignant Felix's gradual loss of innocence.'

Publishers Weekly starred review

Extract

Once I was living in an orphanage in the mountains and I shouldn't have been and I almost caused a riot.

It was because of the carrot.

You know how when a nun serves you very hot soup from a big metal pot and she makes you lean in close so she doesn't drip and the steam from the pot makes your glasses go all misty and you can't wipe them because you're holding your dinner bowl and the fog doesn't clear even when you pray to God, Jesus, the Virgin Mary, the Pope and Adolf Hitler?

That's happening to me

About the author

Morris Gleitzman grew up in England and came to Australia when he was sixteen. After university he worked for ten years as a screenwriter. Then he had a wonderful experience. He wrote a novel for young people. Now, after 40 books, he's one of Australia's most popular authors. He is the Australian Children's Laureate 2018–2019.

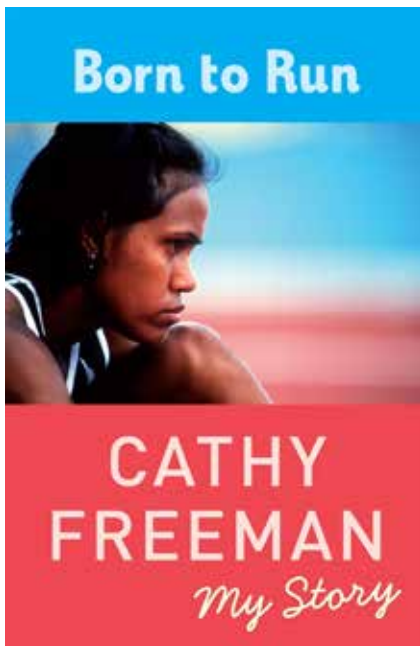
Don't miss the rest of the series: *Then, Now, After, Soon, Maybe* and the final instalment coming in 2020, *Always*.

ISBN: 9780143301950

RRP: \$16.99

Pages: 160



**Text type**

Biography, memoir

Themes

Indigenous Australia, Sports, Overcoming

General capabilities

Critical and creative thinking,
Ethical understanding,
Intercultural understanding,
Literacy

Born to Run

Cathy Freeman

RELEASED MARCH 2007

Winner of the 2008 WAYRBA Children's Choice Awards.

Hi guys, ever since I was little I only had one dream – to win a gold medal at the Olympics. When I was twenty-seven years old, my dream came true. I'll never forget that night at the Sydney 2000 Games – as I crossed the finish line, it was as if the whole of Australia was cheering for me. Sometimes I still wonder how it happened.

When I was growing up, I felt no different to anyone else. I loved having fun with my brothers, sleeping over at nanna's and going horse riding with my dad. But I especially loved to run. With the help of my family, coaches and teachers, I became the best female 400-metre runner in the world. I hope you enjoy my story, and that it inspires you to chase after your dreams too!

Extract

My mother once told me a story about the time before I was born. She told me that her spiritual mother, Muriel, came to bless me while I was still inside her belly. As I lay peacefully in the womb, Muriel put her hands on Mum's stomach and spoke out loud. She prayed that I would be a 'fortunate one'.

It's amazing to hear Mum tell that story now, because when I think about my life, I have been very fortunate. I've got a great family and lots of good friends. I've travelled all over the world competing for Australia, and at the age of twenty-seven I even won a gold medal at the Olympics.

About the author

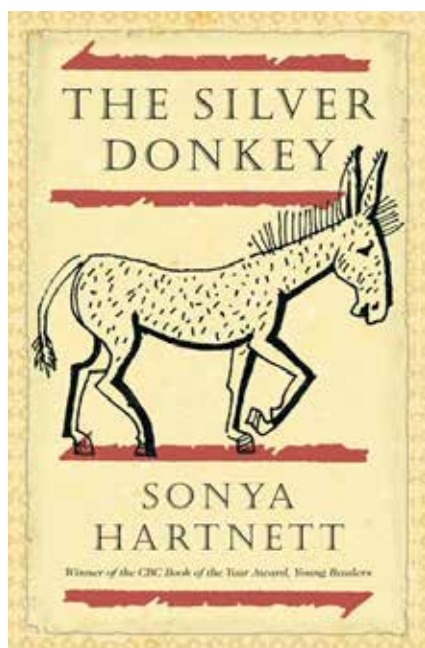
Cathy Freeman won her first race - the 80m dash at St Joseph's Primary, Mackay, Queensland - when she was eight years old. She went on to become Australia's leading athlete of the modern era. Her unforgettable win at the 2000 Sydney Olympics was the highlight of a brilliant career that has included a host of Commonwealth Games medals, two world titles and an Olympic silver medal. Cathy announced her retirement from athletics in July 2003.

ISBN: 9780143302384

RRP: \$17.99

Pages: 192





The Silver Donkey

Sonya Hartnett

RELEASED OCTOBER 2007



Winner of the 2007 COOL and REAL Children's Choice Awards as well as the 2010 Andersen Award (Italy).

Text type

Fiction

Themes

War, Survival, Bravery

General capabilities

Critical and creative thinking,
Ethical understanding,
Intercultural understanding,
Literacy

Unit of work

penguin.com.au/teachers

One bright spring morning in the woods of France, a soldier, blinded by the war, is found by a little girl named Coco, and her older sister Marcelle. In return for their kindness, the soldier tells the sisters marvellous tales, each story connected to the keepsake he carries in his pocket: a perfect, tiny silver donkey.

As the days pass and they struggle in secret to help the soldier reach home, Coco and Marcelle learn the truth behind the silver donkey, and what the precious object means: honesty, loyalty, and courage.

Extract

One cool spring morning in the woods close to the sea, two girls found a man curled up in the shade and, immediately guessing he must be dead, ran away shrieking delightedly, clutching each other's hands. As they ran they shouted to one another all sorts of horrors and secrets: 'I think his ghost is chasing us!' screamed the elder; 'I'm sorry I broke your dolly's arm!' howled the smaller one.

The elder stopped, jerking her sister to a halt. 'I knew it was you who broke Villette's arm!' she cried. 'You liar, you pretended you didn't! I've told you not to touch my things!'

The little girl clamped her mouth shut and wished she hadn't said anything. Her eyes glided up the slope down which they'd both just run. 'The ghost might be coming!' she said hopefully.

About the author

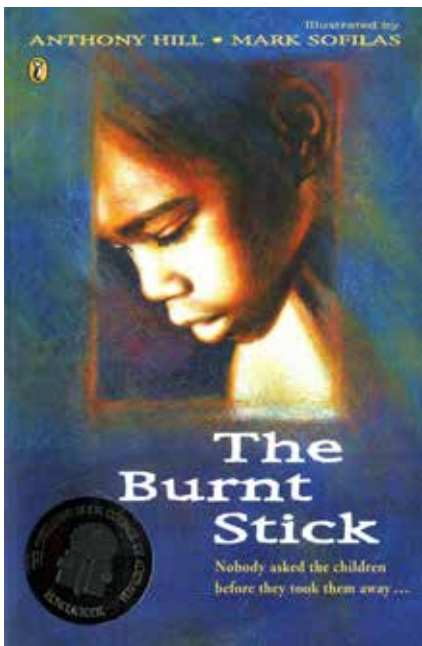
Sonya Hartnett's work has won numerous Australian and international literary prizes and has been published around the world. Uniquely, she is acclaimed for her stories for adults, young adults and children.

ISBN: 9780143301578

RRP: \$19.99

Pages: 208





Text type
Fiction

Themes
Indigenous Australia, Stolen Generations, Australian History, Identity, Family, Trauma

General capabilities
Critical and creative thinking,
Ethical understanding,
Intercultural understanding,
Literacy

The Burnt Stick

Anthony Hill

RELEASED JUNE 1996



Winner of the 1995 Australian Christian Literature Award for Children and 1995 Honour Book in the CBCA Book of the Year Award for Younger readers.

Nobody asked the mothers ... The Welfare believed they would soon get over their loss. And nobody asked the children – they would soon forget.

Yet John Jagamarra did not forget. He was nearly five when the Big Man from Welfare came looking for him – and you can remember many things when you are almost five years old.

John Jagamarra grew up at the Pearl Bay Mission for Aboriginal children in the far north-west. It was beautiful there, but it wasn't home. This is a tale for everyone about the pain of separation, and the strength of the human spirit.

Extract

One night, when the young moon had risen and they were sitting around the fire, Charlie Warragin, the head stockman, looked at John's mother and said, 'Liyan, I have heard they are coming to take away your son in the morning.'

John Jagamarra felt his mother become very tense, her fear flowing into himself. She held him tighter in her arms and cried, 'Who is coming to take him away? Where will they take him?'

'The Big Man from Welfare,' said Charlie Warragin. 'I have heard he is travelling with the police truck to all the camps in this part of the country, and taking the light-skinned ones to the Fathers at Pearl Bay. He was with the mob at Richmond Downs the day before yesterday. He will be here tomorrow.' 'When will they bring my son back to me?'

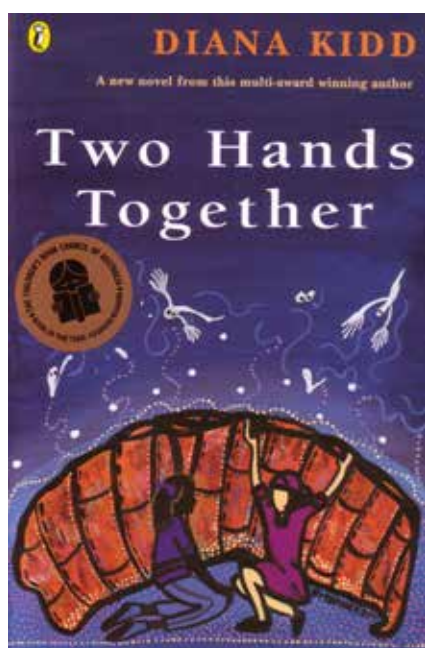
'He will not be coming back,' said Charlie Warragin.

About the author

Anthony Hill is a multi-award-winning, bestselling author. He has a remarkable ability to extensively research historical material and, from wide-ranging sources, piece together a moving and exciting story.

ISBN: 9780140369298
RRP: \$16.99
Pages: 64





Text type
Fiction

Themes
Indigenous Australia,
Connectedness, Belonging,
Friendship, Racism,
Multiculturalism

General capabilities
Critical and creative thinking,
Ethical understanding,
Intercultural understanding,
Literacy

ISBN: 9780141307480
RRP: \$17.99
Pages: 176



Page 83

Two Hands Together

Diana Kidd

RELEASED NOVEMBER 2000

A tale of friendship overcoming racism.

When the Rileys move in next door, Lily and Ella become the best of friends. But Lily can't understand why her Dad doesn't like the Rileys. Why doesn't he want them to go over there? Why is he being so horrible and mean? Does something big have to happen to change his mind?

Extract

My dad could be Mr Universe. When he flexes his arm muscles they look like dinosaur eggs.

'Feel that!' he grins, and Jake and I try to squeeze them but they're as hard as cricket balls.

He can pull his stomach in and make it like a brick wall. 'Punch it,' he says. 'Go on, harder.' We punch as hard as anything but it doesn't hurt him. 'Feels like the fairies are tickling me,' he laughs.

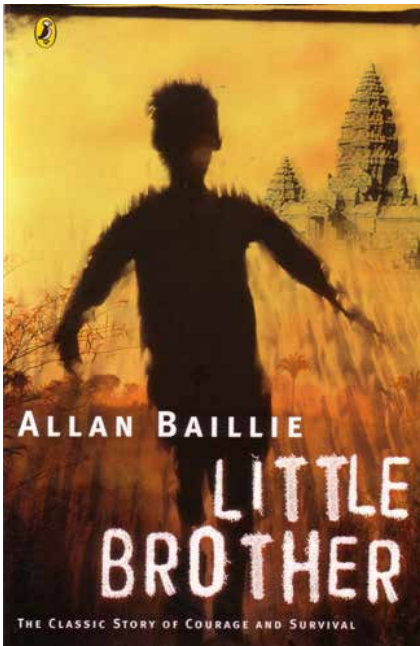
Dad's got a chest developer and weights and an exercise machine for his arms and legs. Every morning before breakfast he does his exercises on the back veranda.

Dad reads magazines about building up your body, too. In one of them there was an advertisement that said, 'Strong Body, Real Man', with a photo of a man carrying a horse up a ladder. There's a photo of him lifting up a car, too. Dad cut out that page and stuck it on the kitchen wall.

'Strong body, real man.' Dad's always saying that.

About the author

Diana was a person who affected people in her living of life. She was a source of light for all who had the privilege to know her. Her generosity, care and love was boundless. Her dedication against injustice, her fight in places where she saw darkness and her commitment to get involved, not just talk about it, earned her respect and many, many friends throughout the community. Diana died the day her book *Two Hands Together* was signed off at the Penguin office and sent to the printers. She is survived by her husband Simon, children Penny, Jeremy and Nick and her two beloved grandchildren.



Text type
Fiction

Themes
Loyalty, Moral values,
Perseverance, Refugees,
Resilience, War

General capabilities
Critical and creative thinking,
Intercultural understanding,
Literacy, Personal and social
capability

Cross-curriculum priorities
Asia and Australia's
engagement with Asia

Unit of work
readingaustralia.com.au

ISBN: 9780143301745
RRP: \$17.99
Pages: 176



Little Brother

Allan Baillie

RELEASED APRIL 2004



The classic story of courage and survival.

The shots were so close they seemed to explode inside Vithy's head. He threw himself to the ground and clapped his hands over his ears . . .

It's Cambodia. The killing machine that is the Khmer Rouge is in power. Vithy has lost everyone and everything he loved – except his older brother, Mang. They've escaped from almost certain execution, but the brothers become separated and Vithy is left alone to 'follow the lines . . . to the border' – his brother's last instructions. But which lines? Which border? A gripping tale of the journey of a boy alone and in danger as he tries to find his brother and escape to freedom.

'Offering insight into the Vietnamese/Cambodian experience, this haunting tale confirms the universality of human instincts and emotions.' *Publisher's Weekly*

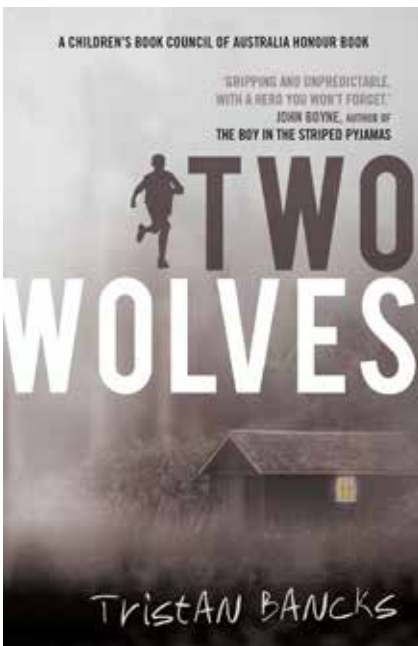
Extract

They had been running for a long time now.

The two boys pounded through the forest, leaping over immense roots, twisting past dark bushes. They wore only torn and dirty grey rags around the waist and their skins were burnt to a deep coffee by too many months in the sun. They were lean, their muscles sliding under the skin like heavy wire. Both had eyebrows like black comets, a broad mouth, a short straight nose and darting brown eyes beneath tossing dark hair. The bigger boy was about eighteen and was constantly searching for a hiding place. The smaller boy was about eleven and wanted to curl up and scream.

About the author

Allan Baillie is one of Australia's most successful writers for children. His novels, which include *Little Brother* (1986), *The China Coin* (1992), *Saving Abbie* (2000) and *Treasure Hunters* (2002), have won him acclaim, awards and international recognition.



Text type
Fiction

Themes
Ethical dilemmas, Family: 'flesh and blood', Innocence vs experience, Nature, survival and fear, Self-esteem and weight, Self-perception: who is 'me'?, Truth and justice, Wolves and rabbits

General capabilities
Critical and creative thinking, Ethical understanding, Literacy

Units of work
penguin.com.au/teachers

Also available as an [audiobook](#)

ISBN: 9780857982032
RRP: \$16.99
Pages: 288



Page 85

Two Wolves Tristan Bancks

RELEASED MARCH 2014



'Gripping and unpredictable, with a hero you won't forget.' John Boyne, author of *The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas*

One afternoon, police officers show up at Ben Silver's front door. Minutes after they leave, his parents arrive home. Ben and his little sister Olive are bundled into the car and told they're going on a holiday. But are they?

It doesn't take long for Ben to realise that his parents are in trouble. Ben's always dreamt of becoming a detective – his dad even calls him 'Cop'. Now Ben gathers evidence and tries to uncover what his parents have done.

The problem is, if he figures it out, what does he do? Tell someone? Or keep the secret and live life on the run?

'A tense, hard-edged, no-holds-barred thriller.' Anthony Horowitz

'Highly recommended for secondary readers as a gripping read, and for class discussion on many levels.' Magpies

Extract

'You keep runnin', you'll only go to jail tired,' Ben Silver muttered.

He hit the photo button on his battered video camera and took another picture. He reached across his forest set and moved the legs on two small clay figures. Ben was eye-level with the action, peering between trees made from cellophane and toilet rolls and other found things.

He often mumbled his characters' lines as he shot a movie. Later, after he'd filmed everything, he would record the voices and add them to the pictures. He jotted the line in his brown leather notebook:

'You keep runnin', you'll only go to jail tired.'

About the author

Tristan Bancks is a children's and teen author with a background in acting and filmmaking. His books and short films have won a number of awards. Tristan is excited by the future of storytelling and inspiring others to create.



Text type
Fiction

Themes
Adventure, Bravery, Family,
Mystery, Survival

General capabilities
Critical and creative thinking,
Ethical understanding,
Literacy

The Fall

Tristan Bancks

RELEASED JUNE 2017



A fast-paced, action-packed story that will have readers on the edge of their seats.

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.

'Suspense in spades! You will be gripped by Sam's story.'
James Phelan

'A real hook for boys, particularly, at the age when some begin to disengage with literature.' Magpies

Extract

I woke to the sound of a voice pleading, high-pitched and urgent. I listened with my whole body. The man's voice was coming from the apartment above. Or was it below? I couldn't be sure. In the six days I'd been staying with my father I hadn't heard much noise from the other apartments.

The microwave in the kitchenette read 2.08 am. My father had left the heaters on too warm again so my head was fuzzy and my throat was dead dry.

I sat up and the springs on the sofa bed squeaked. There were footsteps across the floor above now, and another man's voice, low and threatening.

About the author

Tristan Bancks is a children's and teen author with a background in acting and filmmaking. His books and short films have won a number of awards. Tristan is excited by the future of storytelling and inspiring others to create.

ISBN: 9780143783053
RRP: \$16.99
Pages: 288





Text type
Fiction

Themes
Adventure, Asia, Bravery,
Cultural diversity, Friendship,
History, Loyalty, Survival,
Torres Strait Islands culture,
War

General capabilities
Critical and creative thinking,
Ethical understanding,
Literacy

Cross-curriculum priorities
Aboriginal and Torres
Strait Islander histories and
cultures, Asia and Australia's
engagement with Asia

ISBN: 9780143784104
RRP: \$17.99
Pages: 288



Page 87

The Fighting Stingrays

Simon Mitchell

RELEASED AUGUST 2017



What would you do if you were told your best friend is now the enemy?

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.

Winner of the 2018 NSW Premier's History Prize.

'Adventure, Australian history and the power of friendship come together in this extremely engaging novel.' *Readings*

Extract

The plane's engines screamed. Wing Commander Charlie Napier wrestled with the controls as anti-aircraft fire tore through the skies around him. 'Hold her steady, fellas!' he yelled. 'We're not dead yet. These Germans couldn't hit the side of a hill from ten yards away.'

No sooner had he said it than an explosion erupted at the rear of the plane and the whole aircraft shuddered from nose to tail.

'Everything all right, Sergeant Masa?' Charlie called. Charlie might have been the first twelve-year-old to pilot a bomber in the Royal Australian Air Force, but he couldn't do it without his two crewmates. Together they were the world-famous force the papers called the 'Fighting Stingrays'.

About the author

Simon Mitchell worked as a computer programmer before deciding to branch out and 'try writing in a language that consisted of more than 1's and 0's'. Simon lives in Melbourne, and enjoys writing historical and funny books for kids.



Text type
Fiction

Themes
Coping with change,
Differing perspectives of
war, Family relationships,
Growing up, History, Making
a difference, World War II

General capabilities
Critical and creative thinking,
Ethical understanding,
Intercultural understanding,
Literacy

Cross-curriculum priorities
Asia and Australia's
relationship with Asia

Units of work
penguin.com.au/teachers

The Forgotten Pearl

Belinda Murrell

RELEASED FEBRUARY 2015



Slip back in time with this award-winning historical adventure.

When Chloe visits her grandmother, she learns how close war came to destroying her family. Could Poppy's experiences help Chloe face her own problems?

In 1941, Poppy lives in Darwin, a peaceful paradise. But when Japan attacks Pearl Harbor and then Australia, everything Poppy holds dear is threatened. Terrified, she flees to Sydney – only to find that the danger follows her there. Poppy must face her war with courage and determination. Will her world ever be the same?

'Utterly enthralling tale with warm, well-rounded characters forging their difficult lives in this entertainingly executed tale.'
Magpies

Extract

It's hard to believe how completely your life can change in just a few minutes, thought Chloe. Take friendship: one minute you have a group of friends to hang out with, gossip and laugh with. The next minute, something happens that changes everything.

'Are you all right, Chloe?' asked her grandmother, gently stroking her forehead. 'You seem distracted.'

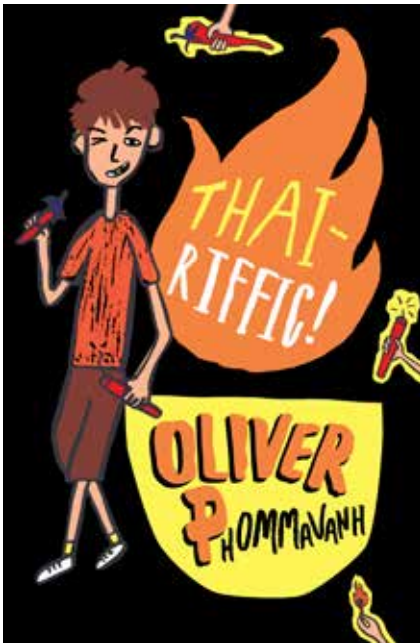
Normally, Chloe loved visiting her grandparents' apartment. It always seemed gracious and elegant – the polished, antique furniture; the vases of flowers; the paintings on the walls and the piles of books – but today she felt sad and dejected. It was the holidays, the weather was stunning, and yet everything was wrong.

About the author

Belinda Murrell children's books include the Sun Sword fantasy trilogy; the Lulu Bell series for younger readers; her most recent series, Pippa's Island; and several other timeslip novels.

ISBN: 9780857986962
RRP: \$17.99
Pages: 304





Text type
Fiction

Themes
Family and friendships,
Identity and culture, Place,
School

General capabilities
Critical and creative thinking,
Literacy

Cross-curriculum priorities
Asia and Australia's
engagement with Asia

Thai-riffic Oliver Phommavanh

RELEASED JUNE 2010



It's hard being Thai, especially when you live in Australia, your house is a Thai cultural shrine, your parents run a restaurant called *Thai-riffic!* and you're desperate for some pizza!

Albert (Lengy) Lengviriyakul, is fed up with being Thai. His parents own a Thai restaurant with the cheesy name of Thai-riffic! and Lengy is sick of being his father's curry guinea pig, longing to just eat pizza! At school he is a bit of a troublemaker, going to any lengths to hide his background. But when his best friend decides to become Thai for a day for a school project, Lengy stubbornly comes to the realisation that there may just be some pretty cool things about his culture.

'His ability to write side-splitting humour and to connect with children shines through in this, his first, novel.' *Sun Herald*

Extract

Same same, but different. It's what Thai people say when they're talking about something similar, like a fake watch or copied DVD. It feels and looks the same but it's not the real thing. I know how that fake watch feels. I'm a fake Aussie. I was made in Thailand. People can spot it straight away. I sound like an Aussie but I smell like Thai food. I live in Australia but my house is a Thai restaurant.

Dad reckons it's no ordinary Thai restaurant. It's *Thai-riffic!* More like Thai-lame, especially with the exclamation mark! If the name doesn't make you spew, the black and neon-orange sign will. It's bright enough to be seen from space. Mum, Dad and my little brother, Kitchai, are planted outside, with necks raised and mouths open, as if they've been zapped by an alien freeze ray.

About the author

Oliver is a young Thai-Australian writer for children. He has worked as a primary school teacher and now spends his time writing and sharing his writing passion with kids and engaging them with humour.

Be sure to check out *Thai-no-mite*, the second hilarious book about Lengy!



ISBN: 9780143304852
RRP: \$16.99
Pages: 208





Paper Planes

Steve Worland

RELEASED JANUARY 2015



The exciting and heartwarming adaptation of the award-winning family film *Paper Planes*.

If at first you don't succeed, fly, fly again!

Dylan is an imaginative twelve-year-old boy who discovers that his talent for folding and flying paper planes could take him to the World Paper Plane Championship. With a great challenge soaring ahead and a goal to fly into the number one spot, there's no telling how far he can go!

'This is a moving book full of challenges and changes; courage and release, perseverance, and the relationship between a father and son.' *Kids' Book Review*

Text type
Fiction

Themes
Bullying, Family, Friendship, Grief

General capabilities
Critical and creative thinking, Literacy

Cross-curriculum priorities
Asia and Australia's engagement with Asia

Units of work
penguin.com.au/teachers
actf.com.au

Extract

The house is a bit old. And a bit small. And the wrought-iron roof is a bit rusty. And the garden is a bit overgrown. And the front gate is a bit squeaky. But as Dylan Webber looks around he knows he wouldn't want to live anywhere else. Now that's not to say he doesn't want to travel the world and visit exotic places like Africa or Peru or China, it's that he's not keen on getting vaccinated before he does. Oh, and he's not sure he wants to leave Clive for too long either.

Dylan shivers at the thought of a long metal needle poking into his arm, shakes it off and finishes brushing his teeth. He grins at himself in the bathroom mirror to make sure his fangs are clean, straightens the collar on his school uniform because it's a bit skew-whiff, then runs a hand through his floppy blond hair. Yep, he's ready for another day at Waleup Primary School.

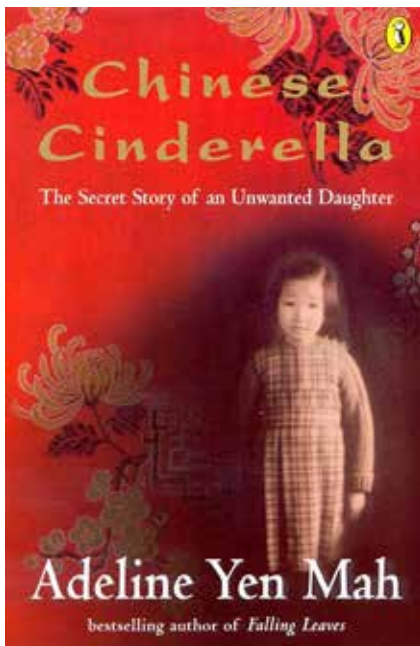
The twelve-year-old grabs his backpack, swings it over his shoulder, trots into the living room and sees his dad. . . He's also sound asleep on the lounge and snoring like a warthog. Actually, that gives warthogs a bad wrap.

ISBN: 9780143308744
RRP: \$16.99
Pages: 208



About the author

Steve Worland has worked extensively in film and TV in Australia and the USA. He co-wrote the screenplay for the Australian family film *Paper Planes* and his latest project is a film about go karts.



Chinese Cinderella

Adeline Yen Mah

RELEASED AUGUST 1999

When Adeline Yen Mah's mother died giving birth to her, the family considered Adeline bad luck and she was made to feel unwanted all her life.

Text type

Fiction, Based on a true story

Themes

China, Culture, Family, Resilience, Self-esteem

General capabilities

Critical and creative thinking, Literacy, Personal and social capability

Cross-curriculum priorities

Asia and Australia's engagement with Asia

Unit of work

penguin.com.au/teachers

Jung-ling's family considers her bad luck because her mother died giving birth to her. They discriminate against her and make her feel unwanted yet she yearns and continuously strives for her parents' love. Her stepmother is vindictive and cruel and her father dismissive. Jung-ling grows up to be an academic child, with a natural ability for writing. Only her aunt and grandfather offer her any love and kindness. The story is of survival in the light of the mental and physical cruelty of her stepmother and the disloyalty of her siblings. Jung-ling blossoms in spite of everything and the story ends as her father agrees to let her study in England.

'(Mah) never veers from a child's sensibility; the child in these pages rarely judges the actions of those around her, she's simply bent on surviving.' *Publisher's Weekly*

Extract

I did as I was told. Though I was only four years old, I understood I should not ask Aunt Baba too many questions about my dead mama. Big Sister once told me, 'Aunt Baba and Mama used to be best friends. A long time ago, they worked together in a bank in Shanghai owned by your Grand Aunt, the youngest sister of Grandfather Ye Ye. But then Mama died giving birth to you. If you had not been born, Mama would still be alive. She died because of you. You are bad luck.'

About the author

Adeline Yen Mah was born in Tianjin, China but subsequently lived in both Shanghai and Hong Kong before leaving – at age fourteen – to study in England. She attended London Hospital Medical School and graduated as a physician, before moving to California where she first established a thriving medical practice before eventually becoming chief of anesthesia at West Anaheim Community Hospital. She is the founder and president of the Falling Leaves Foundation which aims to promote understanding between East and West.

ISBN: 9780141304878

RRP: \$19.99

Pages: 256





Ranger's Apprentice

John Flanagan



RELEASED SEPTEMBER 2009

The New York Times and Australian mega-bestselling series about Will and his friends from Castle Redmont starts here!

Text type
Fiction

Themes
Becoming an apprentice, Bravery, Bullying, Friendship, Learning and practicing skills, Trust

General capabilities
Critical and creative thinking, Ethical understanding, Literacy, Personal and social capability

Units of work
penguin.com.au/teachers

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 . . .

Extract

'Try to eat something, Will. Tomorrow's a big day, after all.'

Jenny, blonde, pretty and cheerful, gestured towards Will's barely touched plate and smiled encouragingly at him. Will made an attempt to return the smile but it was a dismal failure. He picked at the plate before him, piled high with his favourite foods. Tonight, his stomach knotted tight with tension and anticipation, he could hardly bring himself to swallow a bite.

Tomorrow would be a big day, he knew. He knew it all too well, in fact. Tomorrow would be the biggest day in his life, because tomorrow was the Choosing Day and it would determine how he spent the rest of his life.

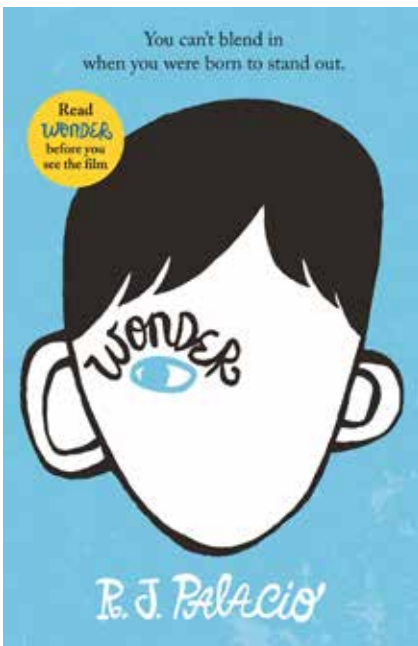
'Nerves, I imagine,' said George, setting down his loaded fork and seizing the lapels of his jacket in a judicious manner.

About the author

John Flanagan's Ranger's Apprentice and Brotherband adventure series have sold more than fifteen million copies worldwide. His books are available in more than one hundred countries, are regularly on international bestseller lists, and have had multiple award shortlistings and wins in Australia and overseas.

ISBN: 9781864719048
RRP: \$17.99
Pages: 288





Text type
Fiction

Themes
Bullying, Friendship, Kindness, Loss and grief, Identity and rite of passage, Physical deformity and self-image

General capabilities
Critical and creative thinking, Ethical understanding, Literacy, Personal and social capability

Units of work
penguin.com.au/teachers
wonderthebook.com/for-teachers

Wonder

R. J. Palacio

RELEASED DECEMBER 2012



Now an Oscar nominated film starring Julia Roberts, Owen Wilson and Jacob Tremblay.

Auggie wants to be an ordinary ten-year-old. He does ordinary things – eating ice cream, playing on his Xbox. He feels ordinary – inside. But ordinary kids don't make other ordinary kids run away screaming in playgrounds. Ordinary kids aren't stared at wherever they go.

Born with a terrible facial abnormality, Auggie has been home-schooled by his parents his whole life. Now, for the first time, he's being sent to a real school. All he wants is to be accepted. But can he convince his new classmates that he's just like them, underneath it all?

'Remarkable . . . It has the power to move hearts and change minds.' *Guardian*

'When the kids have finished with this, the adults will want to read it. Everybody should.' *Financial Times*

Extract

I know I'm not an ordinary ten-year-old kid. I mean, sure, I do ordinary things. I eat ice cream. I ride my bike. I play ball. I have an Xbox. Stuff like that makes me ordinary. I guess. And I feel ordinary. Inside. But I know ordinary kids don't make other ordinary kids run away screaming in playgrounds. I know ordinary kids don't get stared at wherever they go.

If I found a magic lamp and I could have one wish, I would wish that I had a normal face that no one ever noticed at all. I would wish that I could walk down the street without people seeing me and then doing that look-away thing. Here's what I think: the only reason I'm not ordinary is that no one else sees me that way.

About the author

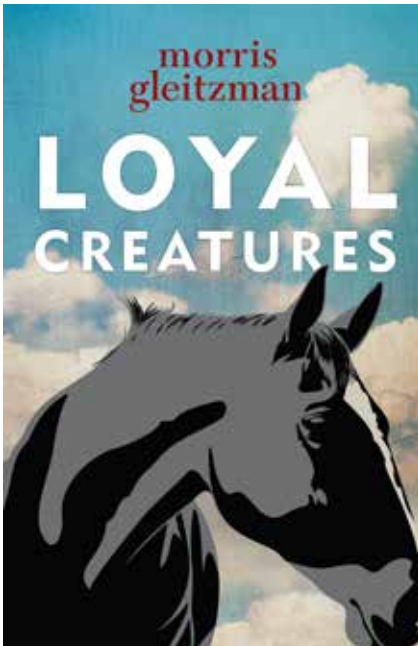
R. J. Palacio is a graphic designer by day and a writer by night. She lives in New York City with her family and a black dog called Bear.

Don't miss *Auggie & Me*, which follows the stories of Julian, Charlotte and Christopher, and their relationships with the unforgettable Auggie.



ISBN: 9780552565974
RRP: \$19.99
Pages: 320





Text type
Fiction

Themes
World War I, Loyalty,
Bravery

General capabilities
Critical and creative thinking,
Literacy, Personal and social
capability

Unit of work
readingaustralia.com.au

Loyal Creatures

Morris Gleitzman

RELEASED JUNE 2014



They were loyal creatures, the men and horses of the Australian Light Horse.

1914. War. Did I want to volunteer with Daisy? Course I did. When I told Dad he tried to wallop me round the head with a canvas bucket. 'You're fifteen,' he said.

In the deserts of Egypt and Palestine young Frank experiences all the adventure he ever wanted, and a few things he wasn't expecting. Heartbreak, love and the chance to make the most important choice of his life. From Gallipoli to the famous charge at Beersheba, through to the end of the war and its unforgettable aftermath, Frank's story grows out of some of the key moments in Australia's history.

The powerful story of a young man's journey towards his own kind of bravery.

'It's a powerfully moving drama . . . It's unforgettable. Read it with a box of tissues by your side. Highly recommended for ages 9 and up.' *Readings*

Extract

Choose the right moment, that was the go.

Tell Dad what had just been announced in the paper.
Exciting new war opportunities for blokes like him and me.

Dead-set perfect for us, the Aussie Light Horse.

Trouble was, I didn't do a great job of picking the right moment.

We were on a property out west, locating water for a farmer who needed it urgent. His cattle were like empty saddlebags.

About the author

Morris Gleitzman grew up in England and came to Australia when he was sixteen. After university he worked for ten years as a screenwriter. Then he had a wonderful experience. He wrote a novel for young people. Now, after 40 books, he's one of Australia's most popular authors. He is the Australian Children's Laureate 2018–2019.

ISBN: 9780670077427
RRP: \$19.99
Pages: 176





Text type
Fiction

Themes
Belonging, Environment,
Family, Sustainability, The
landscape, The sea

General capabilities
Critical and creative thinking,
Literacy, Personal and social
capability

Unit of work
penguin.com.au/teachers

Blueback Tim Winton

RELEASED DECEMBER 2008



An aching beautiful story about family, belonging, and living a life in tune with the environment.

Abel Jackson's boyhood belongs to a vanishing world. On an idyllic stretch of coast whose waters teem with fish, he lives a simple, tough existence. It's just him and his mother in the house at Longboat Bay, but Abel has friends in the sea, particularly the magnificent old groper he meets when diving.

As the years pass, things change, but one thing seems to remain constant: the greed of humans. When the modern world comes to his patch of sea, Abel wonders what can stand in its way.

Blueback is a deceptively simple allegory about a boy who matures through fortitude and who finds wisdom through living in harmony with all forms of life.

'Winton . . . convince(s) us of the preciousness of our oceans not through lectures but through his characters' steady wonder.'
New York Times

Extract

Just as the sun came up, Abel pulled on his wetsuit and ran down the jetty. Already his mother was in the dinghy with the outboard motor running. It was cold this morning and Abel was still half asleep. He got down into the boat, untied the bowline and pushed them clear. With a purr of the outboard they surged away.

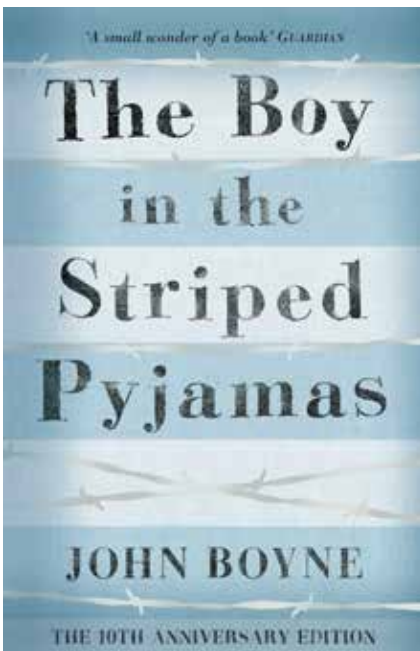
In the bow, he looked around, slowly waking up in the cold rush of air. Sunlight caught the windows of the shack above the beach so that every pane of glass looked like a little fire. He watched his mother's hair blow back off her shoulders. She squinted a little. Her skin was tanned and wrinkled from the sun. He felt the sea pulsing under him as the little boat skimmed across the bay.

About the author

Tim Winton has published twenty-nine books for adults and children, and his work has been translated into twenty-eight languages.

ISBN: 9780143304333
RRP: \$17.99
Pages: 176





The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas

John Boyne



RELEASED AUGUST 2009

A truly unforgettable and life-changing story.

The story of *The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas* is very difficult to describe. Usually we give some clues about the book on the cover, but in this case we think that would spoil the reading of the book. We think it is important that you start to read without knowing what it is about.

If you do start to read this book, you will go on a journey with a nine-year-old boy called Bruno. And sooner or later you will arrive with Bruno at a fence.

We hope you never have to cross such a fence.

'A small wonder of a book. Bruno's education is conducted slowly, through a series of fleeting social encounters rather than by plunging him into a nightmare landscape.' *Guardian*

Extract

One afternoon, when Bruno came home from school, he was surprised to find Maria, the family's maid – who always kept her head bowed and never looked up from the carpet – standing in his bedroom, pulling all his belongings out of the wardrobe and packing them in four large wooden crates, even the things he'd hidden at the back that belonged to him and were nobody else's business.

'What are you doing?' he asked in as polite a tone as he could muster, for although he wasn't happy to come home and find someone going through his possessions, his mother had always told him that he was to treat Maria respectfully.

About the author

John Boyne was born in Ireland in 1971. He is the author of eleven novels for adults, five for young readers and a collection of short stories. Perhaps best known for his 2006 multi-award-winning book *The Boy In The Striped Pyjamas*, John's other novels, notably *The Absolutist* and *A History of Loneliness*, have been widely praised and are international bestsellers. Most recently, *The Heart's Invisible Furies* was a Richard & Judy Bookclub word-of-mouth bestseller.

Text type
Fiction

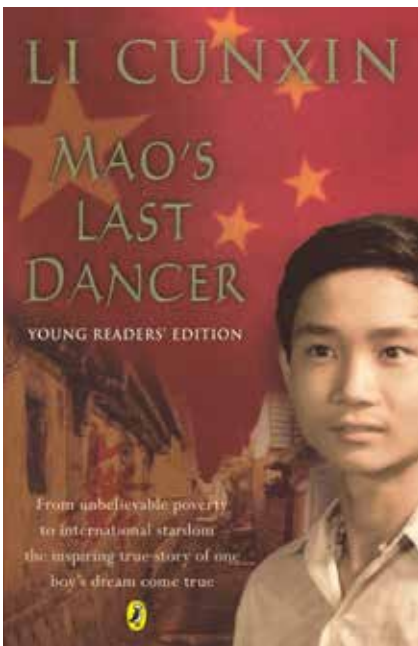
Themes
Deceit, Ethics, Family,
Friendship, Holocaust, Lies,
Morality, Race, World War II

General capabilities
Critical and creative thinking,
Literacy, Personal and social
capability

Unit of work
penguin.com.au/teachers

ISBN: 9780099572862
RRP: \$14.99
Pages: 256





Mao's Last Dancer

Young Readers' Edition

Li Cunxin



RELEASED MAY 2005

From bitter poverty to the stardom of the West – this is the extraordinary true story of one boy's courage and determination.

Text type

Biography and memoir

Themes

Ballet, China, Cultural revolution, Customs, Fables, Family, Propaganda, Resilience

General capabilities

Critical and creative thinking, Literacy, Personal and social capability

Unit of work

penguin.com.au/teachers

One day, not so very many years ago, a small peasant boy was chosen to study ballet at the Beijing Dance Academy. His mother urged him to take this chance of a lifetime.

But Li was only eleven years old and he was scared and lonely, pushed away from all that he had ever known and loved. He hated the strict training routines and the strange place he had been brought to. All he wanted to do was go home – to his mother, father and six brothers, to his own small village. But soon Li realised that his mother was right. He had the chance to do something special with his life – and he never turned back . . .

Extract

My mother's earnings, as with all the peasants', depended on the weather and luck. They had no say in what to plant: the central government in Beijing decided that . . . The government would get the first and biggest portion, at the government-set price, and the rest was divided amongst the peasants according to the number of members in each family and how many points the family earned during the year . . . At the end of each month, all the peasants would gather and decide how many points each person was entitled to.

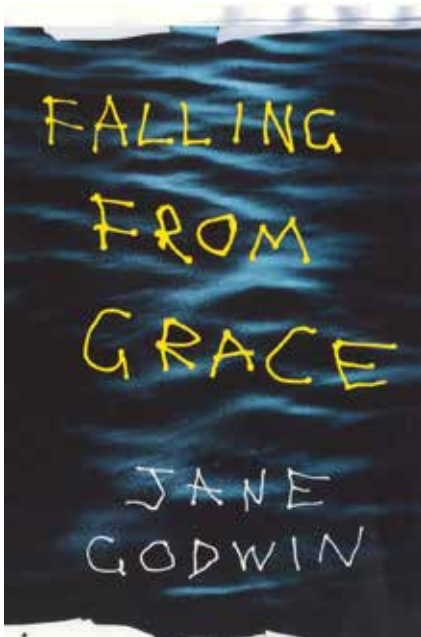
About the author

The sixth of seven sons in a poor rural family, Li Cunxin's peasant life in Chairman Mao's communist China changed dramatically when, at the age of eleven, he was chosen by Madame Mao's cultural advisers to become a student at the Beijing Dance Academy.

Li went on to become one of the best male dancers in the world. His autobiography, *Mao's Last Dancer*, has received numerous accolades including the Australian Book of the Year Award and has been published around the world. In 2009, the book was adapted into a feature film. Li currently lives in Australia.

ISBN: 9780143301646
RRP: \$19.99
Pages: 352





Falling from Grace

Jane Godwin

RELEASED JUNE 2006



Text type
Fiction

Themes
Coming of age, Friendship,
Loss, Music, Trust

General capabilities
Critical and creative thinking,
Literacy, Personal and social
capability

Kip, Annie, Grace, David, Ted. Five different people, one terrible night. There's a storm at Point Nepean, and the ocean has swept into the bay. Kip is in the wrong place at the wrong time. Annie is scared. David is looking. And Grace is gone. Enter Ted – with his vintage guitars and wild ideas, he's unlike anyone Kip has ever met.

As each day passes and a search is mounted, Kip cannot help asking questions – of himself, of the people around him, of everything that happened on the night of the storm. But the biggest questions facing Kip are: Where is Grace? And who is Ted?

'A riveting story of disappearance and search told in alternating voices laced with insights about the journey from innocence to experience.' *Kirkus*

Extract

If you stand on Cheviot Hill at Point Nepean, you can see the ocean on one side and the bay on the other. The bay is protected by the headland: it's calm and blue like a photo in a holiday brochure. The ocean looks wild because . . . well, because it's an ocean – it's Bass Strait, it might be close to the bay but they're so different it's hard to believe only a five minute walk separates them.

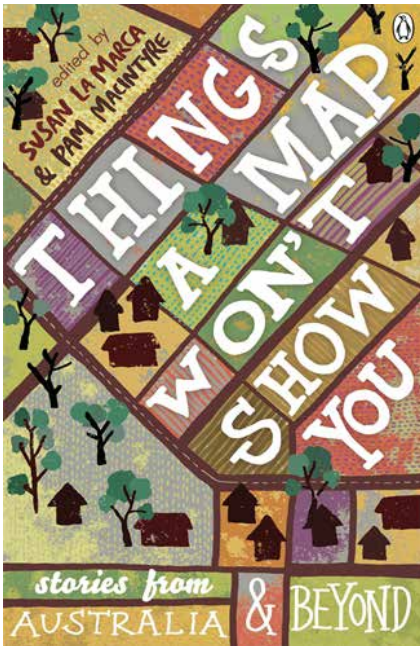
Still, on that day, that night, it felt as if they weren't separate, as if the ocean didn't stop where it was meant to, it came right on over and swept into the bay.

About the author

Jane Godwin is an Australian children's book publisher, and also the highly acclaimed author of over twenty books for children, across all styles and ages. Her work is published internationally and she has received many commendations, including the Queensland Premier's Award (Children's Books), the Aurealis Award and the Animal Welfare Award, and shortlistings in the CBCA Book of the Year Awards, the Prime Minister's Literary Award, the New South Wales State Literary Award (Patricia Wrightson Prize), the YABBA Awards, the Speech Pathology Awards, The Family Award for Children's Books, and the Australian Book Industry Awards.

ISBN: 9780143302414
RRP: \$18.99
Pages: 208





Text type

Fiction, Short stories

Themes

Connection, Culture, Integration, Leaving childhood, Relationships

General capabilities

Critical and Creative thinking, Ethical understanding, Intercultural understanding, Literacy, Personal and social capability

Cross-curriculum priorities

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories and cultures, Asia and Australia's engagement with Asia

Unit of work

penguin.com.au/teachers

ISBN: 9780143565314

RRP: \$24.99

Pages: 304



Things a Map Won't Show You

Susan La Marca & Pam Macintyre

RELEASED FEBRUARY 2012

Sometimes funny, sometimes dramatic, always compelling, this collection featuring established and emerging talent will broaden your horizons and excite your imagination.

An unforgettable collection of short fiction, poetry and comic art from Australia and beyond . . .

A boy who tries to fly, a cricket game in a refugee centre, a government guide to kissing, the perils of hunting goannas, an arranged marriage, an awkward blind date, a girl who stands on her head, an imprisoned king and a cursed Maori stone . . .

Including: James Roy, Tanveer Ahmed, Michael Pryor, Ursula Dubosarsky, Sonya Hartnett, Doug MacLeod, Oliver Phommavanh, Brenton McKenna, Tara June Winch, Sudha Murty, Oodgeroo

Extract

The stories in this collection were selected with the curriculum in mind and for their appeal to Year 7 and 8 readers.

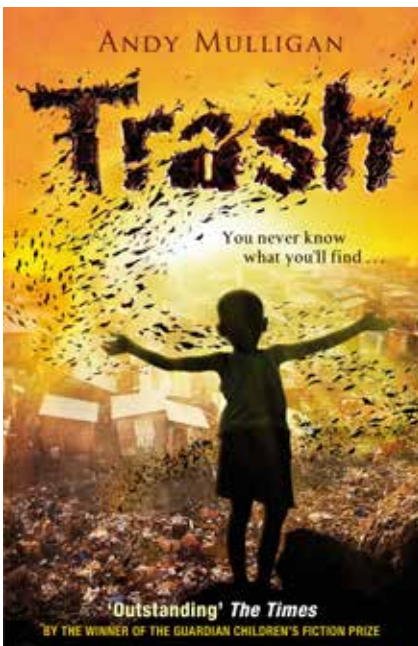
. . . Indigenous Australian voices, the voices of newcomers to Australian society, and voices from Asia and the Pacific region enrich the collection. Urban and rural Australia are the backdrop for both serious and humorous events. Stories from beyond Australia give readers an insight into the culture and lives of people from various countries on our region's map, and offer a different way of seeing the world.

About the authors

Dr Susan La Marca is a consultant in the areas of children's and young adult literature and school libraries.

Dr Pam Macintyre teaches language and literacy and children's and young adult literature at RMIT University.

Together, they have edited two collections: *Things a Map Won't Show You*, for middle grade readers, and *Where the Shoreline Used to Be*, for senior high school students.



Text type
Fiction

Themes
Corruption, Bravery,
Friendship, Justice, Narrative
voice, Poverty, Sustainability,
Third world countries, Waste

General capabilities
Critical and creative thinking,
Ethical understanding,
Intercultural understanding,
Literacy, Personal and social
capability

Cross-curriculum priorities
Sustainability

Units of work
penguin.com.au/teachers

ISBN: 9781909531130
RRP: \$17.99
Pages: 224



Page 100

Trash

Andy Mulligan

RELEASED AUGUST 2010

'A Slumdog, feel-good treasure find.'
Daily Mail



Raphael lives on a dumpsite, eking out a living sifting through rubbish. One unlucky-lucky day, he makes an extraordinary and deadly discovery. Now he and his two friends, Gardo and Rat, are wanted by the corrupt forces that run the city and will stop at nothing to get back what they've lost.

From the slums to the mansions of the elite, it's going to take all of their quick-thinking and fast-talking to stay ahead. And to stay alive.

Now adapted into a Bafta-nominated film directed by Steven Daldry and written by Richard Curtis.

'One of the most exciting and original novels of the year.'
Daily Mail

'Trash is a thriller with moral weight and a complex structure.'
Financial Times

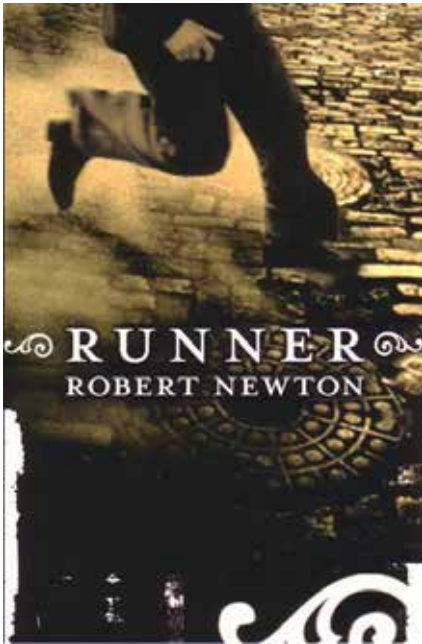
Extract

My name is Raphael Fernández and I am a dumpsite boy.

People say to me, 'I guess you just never know what you'll find, sifting through rubbish! Today could be your lucky day.' I say to them, 'Friend, I think I know what I find.' And I know what everyone finds, because I know what we've been finding for all the years I've been working, which is eleven years. It's the one word: *stuppa*, which means – and I'm sorry if I offend – it's our word for human muck. I don't want to upset anyone, that's not my business here. But there's a lot of things hard to come by in our sweet city, and one of the things too many people don't have is toilets and running water . . . so when you use the toilet, you do it on a piece of paper, and you wrap it up and put it in the trash . . . you'd be amazed at how much trash this city makes. Piles and piles of it, and it all ends up here with us.

About the author

Andy Mulligan was brought up in the south of London. He worked as a theatre director for ten years before travels in Asia prompted him to retrain as a teacher.



Runner

Robert Newton

RELEASED JUNE 2005



A touching coming-of-age story set in 1919 Melbourne as 15-year-old Charlie Feehan struggles to find his way into adulthood.

Text type
Fiction

Themes
Australian history, Crime, Friendship, Grief, Home, Humour, Poverty

General capabilities
Critical and creative thinking, Ethical understanding, Literacy, Personal and social capability

Units of work
penguin.com.au/teachers

It's 1919, Richmond football club is on top of the ladder, cream buns are threepence each and four boys are gunning for the best job in town. Charlie is lucky enough to win the prime job – running messages for Squizzy Taylor, the most dangerous gangster in Melbourne. But things start to get a little too hot for Charlie, so he decides to take the money and run . . .

'Newton's writing teems with bright, engaging dialogue, a compelling historical setting and fully developed characters.'
Publishers Weekly starred review

'Colorful characters, gritty action, a protagonist who grows and changes and its resonant themes and issues.' *Kirkus*

Extract

That day, I recall, was the start of the rain.

Overnight, huge menacing clouds thundered in to town and set up camp above the city. In the morning, while my baby brother slept, Ma and I stood on the front porch gazing up at the dirty black sky. Next door, too, our old neighbour, Cecil Redmond, had his eyes raised skyward.

'Have ya ever seen anythin' so black, Mr Redmond?' called Ma.

'Indeed I 'ave, missus,' he replied. 'Just now, when the good wife smiled at me.'

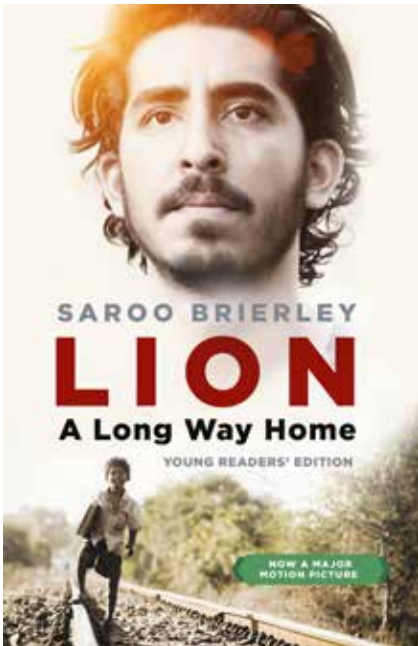
In the seedy streets of Richmond, you would not find two finer neighbours than the Redmonds, and, if truth be known, they were more like grandparents to my brother and I. Still, Mr Redmond was right. His wife's rotting teeth were sadly in need of attention.

About the author

Robert Newton works as a firefighter with the Metropolitan Fire Brigade. He has written eight novels for young people. He lives on the Mornington Peninsula with his wife and three daughters.

ISBN: 9780143302070
RRP: \$19.99
Pages: 240





Lion

Young Readers' Edition

Saroo Brierley



RELEASED JANUARY 2017

A moving and inspirational true story of survival and triumph against incredible odds, celebrating the importance of never letting go of what drives the human spirit – hope. The film of *Lion* was released in 2016.

Text type

Non-fiction, Memoir

Themes

Asia, Belonging, Bravery, Cultural diversity, Family, Identity and culture, People, Place, Resilience, Survival

General capabilities

Critical and creative thinking, Ethical understanding, Information and communication technology capability, Intercultural understanding, Literacy, Personal and social capability

Cross-curriculum priorities

Asia and Australia's engagement with Asia

Units of work

penguin.com.au/teachers

When Saroo Brierley used Google Earth to find his long-lost home town half a world away, he made global headlines.

Saroo had become lost on a train in India at the age of five. Years later, after having been adopted by a couple in Australia, he began to pore over satellite images of the country for landmarks he recognised. And one day, after years of searching, he miraculously found what he was looking for.

Then he set off on a journey to find his mother.

'A feel-good read about a remarkable journey.' *Sun Herald*

'An informative and fascinating insight into how Third World families live with, and somehow survive, their poverty.' *Saturday Age*

Extract

I had a map of India on my bedroom wall when I was growing up in Hobart. Mum – my new mother – had put it there to help me feel at home. But when I arrived in Tasmania, I didn't even know what a map was, let alone the shape of India. I had never been to school, I couldn't read or write or speak English. It was 1987, and they told me I was six years old. I didn't know for certain how old I was. On my official documents my birthday was 22 May 1981, but that was a guess by the Indian authorities, based on the day I had arrived at the orphanage, an ignorant, confused, lost little boy.

This edition has been specially edited for younger readers who want to discover Saroo's extraordinary story for themselves.

About the author

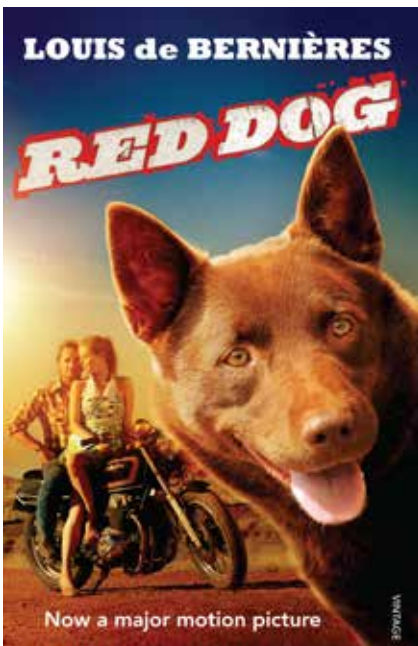
Saroo Brierley was born in Khandwa, Madhya Pradesh, India. He lives in Hobart, Tasmania.

ISBN: 9780143784760

RRP: \$16.99

Pages: 256





Text type
Fiction

Themes
Community, Dogs, Hardship,
Friendship, Isolation, Loyalty,
Mining towns, Outback
Australia

General capabilities
Critical and creative thinking,
Literacy, Personal and social
capability

Unit of work
[tes.com/teaching-resource/](https://www.tes.com/teaching-resource/)

Red Dog Louis de Bernières

FILM TIE-IN RELEASED APRIL 2011



Red Dog is a West Australian, lovable friendly red kelpie who found widespread fame as a result of his habit of travelling all over Western Australia, hitching rides over thousands of miles, settling in places for months at a time and adopting new families before heading off again to the next destination and another family – sometimes returning to say hello years later. While visiting Australia, Louis de Bernières heard the legend of Red Dog and decided to do some research on this extraordinary story. After travelling to Western Australia and meeting countless people who'd known and loved Red Dog, Louis decided to spread Red Dog's fame a little further. The result is an utterly charming tale of an amazing dog with places to go and people to see. *Red Dog* will delight readers and animal lovers of all ages.

'de Bernières's short, very sweet 'biography' of a highly engaging animal is a particular treat.' *Guardian*

Extract

'Strewth,' exclaimed Jack Collins, 'that dog's a real stinker! I don't know how he puts up with himself. If I dropped bombs like that, I'd walk around with my head in a paper bag, just to protect myself.'

'Everyone likes their own smells,' said Mrs Collins. Jack raised his eyebrows and smirked at her, so she added, 'Or so they say.'

'Well, it's too much for me, Maureen. He's going to have to go out in the yard.'

'It's his diet,' said Maureen, 'eating what he eats, it's going to make smells. And he gulps it down so fast, he must be swallowing air.'

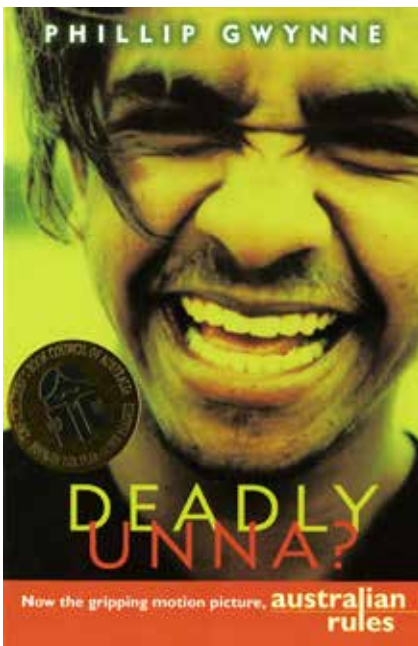
'Tally would let off even if you fed him on roses,' said her husband, shaking his head, half in wonder.

About the author

Louis de Bernières is the bestselling author of *Captain Corelli's Mandolin*, which won the Commonwealth Writers' Prize, Best Book in 1995. His most recent books are *The Dust That Falls From Dreams*, *Birds Without Wings* and *A Partisan's Daughter*, a collection of stories, *Notwithstanding*, and two collections of poetry, *Imagining Alexandria* and *Of Love and Desire*.

ISBN: 9781742752259
RRP: \$19.99
Pages: 128





Deadly, Unna?

Phillip Gwynne

RELEASED MAY 1998



Critically acclaimed, and highly awarded both locally and internationally, *Deadly, Unna?* is a must-read.

'Deadly, unna?' He was always saying that. All the Nungas did, but Dumby more than any of them.

Dumby Red and Blacky don't have a lot in common. Dumby's the star of the footy team, he's got a killer smile and the knack with girls, and he's a Nunga. Blacky's a gutless wonder, needs braces, never knows what to say, and he's white. But they're friends . . . and it could be deadly, unna?

This gutsy novel, set in a small coastal town in South Australia is a rites-of-passage story about two boys confronting the depth of racism that exists all around them.

'With its understated approach to a sensitive, contentious issue nicely balanced with a humorous yet intense coming-of-age story, Deadly Unna? is unforgettable and thought-provoking.'

Giraffe Days

'One of the political books for young people most worth reading.' *Die Welt*

Extract

We've made the grand final.

Next Saturday we play Wangaroo for the Peninsula Junior Colts Premiership. The whole town is talking about it, it's the biggest thing to happen here since the second prize in the S.A. Tidy Towns Competition (Section B). Just shows what sort of town I live in. Hopeless.

Our coach, Mr Robertson, runs one of the two local stores. I call him 'Arks', behind his back of course, because he says 'arks' instead of asks and 'arksed' instead of asked.

The highly awarded *Deadly, Unna?* was adapted into the acclaimed 2002 film *Australian Rules*.

About the author

Phillip Gwynne's first novel *Deadly Unna?*, the literary hit of 1998, has now sold over 180,000 copies. The sequel, *Nukkin Ya*, was published to great acclaim in 2000.

Text type

Fiction

Themes

Coming of age, Friendships, Identity and belonging, Justice, Racism

General capabilities

Critical and creative thinking, Intercultural understanding, Literacy

Cross-Curriculum Priorities

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories and cultures

Units of work

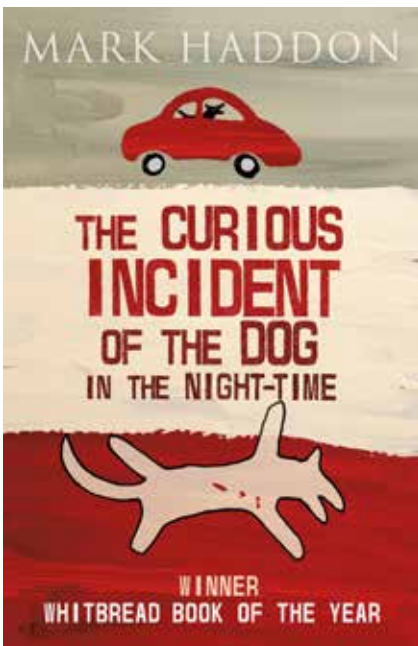
penguin.com.au/teachers

ISBN: 9780141300498

RRP: \$19.99

Pages: 288





Text type
Fiction

Themes
Mystery, Autism spectrum disorder, Family, Bravery, Belonging

General capabilities
Critical and creative thinking, Literacy, Personal and social capability

The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time

Mark Haddon



RELEASED MARCH 2014

It was 7 minutes after midnight. The dog was lying on the grass in the middle of the lawn in front of Mrs Shears' house. Its eyes were closed. It looked as if it was running on its side, the way dogs run when they think they are chasing a cat in a dream. But the dog was not running or asleep. The dog was dead.

This is Christopher's story, and through this radically imaginative and generous novel, his world is revealed, full of terror, love, strangeness and surprise.

'In telling a painful story in the voice of a 15-year-old boy with Asperger's, Haddon broadens ordinary minds and helps to understand how they work, too.' *Daily Telegraph*

Extract

This will not be a funny book. I cannot tell jokes because I do not understand them. Here is a joke, as an example. It is one of Father's. **His face was drawn but the curtains were real.**

I know why this is meant to be funny. I asked. It is because *drawn* has three meanings . . .

If I try to say the joke to myself, making the word mean the three different things at the same time, it is like hearing three different pieces of music at the same time which is uncomfortable and confusing and not nice like white noise. It is like three people trying to talk to you at the same time about different things.

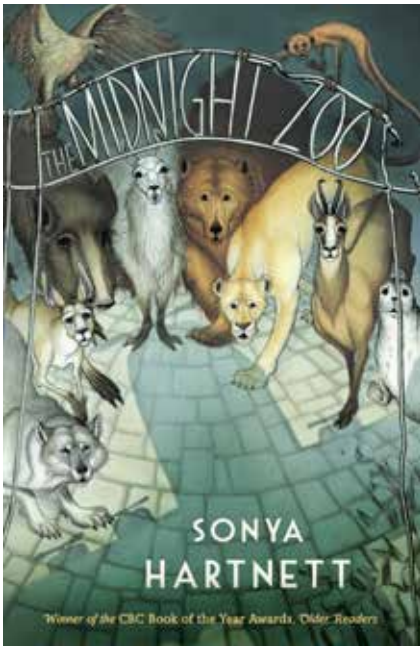
And that is why there are no jokes in this book.

About the author

Mark Haddon is a writer and artist. His bestselling novel, *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time*, won seventeen literary prizes, including the Whitbread Award. In 2012, a stage adaptation by Simon Stephens was produced by the National Theatre and went on to win 7 Olivier Awards in 2013 and the 2015 Tony Award for Best Play.

ISBN: 9781782953463
RRP: \$19.99
Pages: 288





The Midnight Zoo

Sonya Hartnett

RELEASED JULY 2010



A moving and ageless fable about war, and freedom.

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.

Text type
Fiction

Themes
Freedom, Animals, Wildlife,
Fables, Animal lore, Betrayal,
Responsibility

General capabilities
Critical and creative thinking,
Ethical understanding,
Literacy

Cross-curriculum priorities
Sustainability

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.

'This book makes the world of the Second World War real, seen through the eyes of two young boys and trapped animals... it is a compelling read and I would recommend it to any passionate reader.' *The Guardian*

Extract

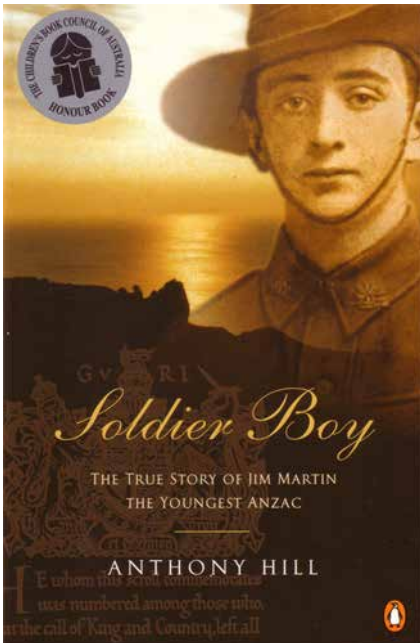
If the old bell had been hanging in the steeple it would have rung to announce midnight, twelve solemn iron klongs which would have woken the villages from their sleep and startled any small creature new to the village and unaccustomed to the noise. But the bell had fallen from its height weeks ago, and now lay buried in silence beneath rubble; no small creature foraged in corners, because every scrap had already been carried away in beak and mouth and paw; and no woken villagers lay grumbling, for the people, like their beill, were gone.

About the author

Sonya Hartnett's work has won numerous Australian and international literary prizes and has been published around the world. Uniquely, she is acclaimed for her stories for adults and children. Her accolades include the Commonwealth Writers' Prize, The Age Book of the Year, the Guardian Children's Fiction Prize, the CBCA Book of the Year, the Victorian Premier's Literary Award, shortlistings for the Miles Franklin Award and the CILP Carnegie Medal. Hartnett is also the first Australian recipient of the Astrid Lindgren Memorial Award.

ISBN: 9780143504887
RRP: \$16.99
Pages: 192





Text type

Fiction, Based on a true story

Themes

ANZAC, World War I

General capabilities

Critical and creative thinking,
Literacy, Personal and social
capability

Unit of work

penguin.com.au/teachers

Soldier Boy

Anthony Hill

RELEASED APRIL 2001



On 28 June 1915, young James Martin sailed from Melbourne aboard the troopship Berrima – bound, ultimately, for Gallipoli. He was just fourteen years old.

Soldier Boy is Jim's extraordinary true story, the story of a young and enthusiastic school boy who became Australia's youngest known Anzac.

Four months after leaving his home country he would be numbered among the dead, just one of so many soldier boys who travelled halfway around the world for the chance of adventure.

This is, however, just as much the story of Jim's mother, Amelia Martin. It is the heartbreaking tale of the mother who had to let him go, of his family who lost a son, a brother, an uncle, a friend.

'... historically accurate. Teachers can feel confident that *Soldier Boy* is just about as close as you can get to an accurate historical representation in a novel form.' *Canberra Times*

Extract

Jim Martin drifted in and out of consciousness on the afternoon tide.

He had been brought aboard the *Glenart Castle* in a state utter collapse just over an hour ago, in the five o'clock cargo of sick and wounded soldiers who were towed out in barges from Anzac. More sick than wounded. In late autumn, before the weather had turned at Gallipoli, flies and disease were deadlier than Turkish bullets.

About the author

Anthony Hill is a multi-award-winning, bestselling author. His novel *Soldier Boy*, about Australia's youngest known Anzac, was winner of the 2002 NSW Premier's Literary Award for Books for Young Adults. His children's book *Captain Cook's Apprentice*, won the 2009 NSW Premier's Young People's History Prize. It follows *Soldier Boy*, *Young Digger* and *Animal Heroes* as further testimony to his remarkable ability to extensively research historical material and, from wide-ranging sources, piece together a moving and exciting story.

Soldier Boy is based on a true story.

ISBN: 9780141003306

RRP: \$19.99

Pages: 192





Text type
Fiction

Themes
Society and class structures,
Relationships, Gender
differences, Honour

General capabilities
Critical and creative thinking,
Ethical understanding,
Literacy

The Outsiders

S. E. Hinton

RELEASED APRIL 1967

The original teenage rebel story; now part of the Originals collection, showcasing Penguin's very best modern classics for young adults.

The Outsiders is an outstanding story of teenage rebellion, written when the author was only 17 years old. It is one of The Originals from Penguin – iconic, outspoken, first.

Youngsters in a small Oklahoma town have split into two gangs, divided by money, tastes and attitude. The Socs' idea of having a good time is beating up Greasers like Ponyboy Curtis. Ponyboy knows what to expect and knows he can count on his brothers and friends – until the night someone takes things too far.

'Gritty, emotional and very authentic.' Jodi Picoult

The Outsiders is a teenage epic.' Francis Ford Coppola

Extract

I had a long walk home and no company, but I usually lone it anyway, for no reason except that I like to watch movies undisturbed so I can get into them and live them with the actors. When I see a movie with someone it's kind of uncomfortable, like having someone read your book over your shoulder. I'm different that way. I mean, my second oldest brother, Soda, who is sixteen-going-on-seventeen, never cracks a book at all, and my oldest brother, Darrel, who we call Darry, works too long and hard to be interested in a story or drawing a picture, so I'm not like them. And nobody in our gang digs movies and books the way I do. For a while there, I thought I was the only person in the world that did. So I loned it.

About the author

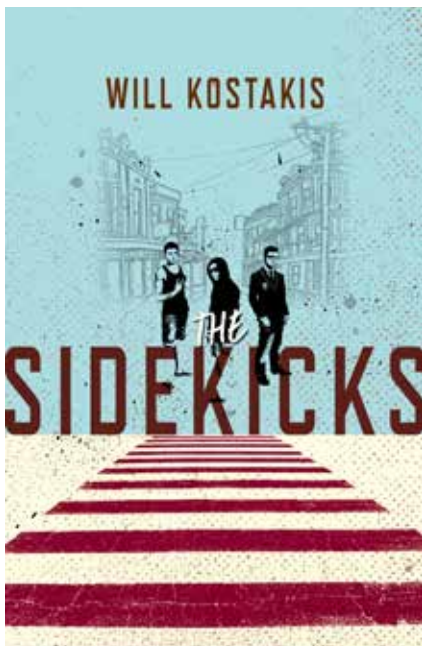
S. E. Hinton wrote her first book, *The Outsiders*, in 1967, when she was seventeen years old. She graduated from the University of Tulsa in 1970, with a degree in education. The following year, she married a fellow student, David. They have one son and live in Tulsa.

ISBN: 9780141368887

RRP: \$16.99

Pages: 240





The Sidekicks

Will Kostakis

RELEASED MARCH 2016



A perfect depiction of the pain and pleasure of this teenage world, that pieces together three points of view with intricate splendour.

The Swimmer. The Rebel. The Nerd.

All Ryan, Harley and Miles had in common was Isaac. They lived different lives, had different interests and kept different secrets. But they shared the same best friend. They were sidekicks. And now that Isaac's gone, what does that make them?

'Gutsy, ambitious, funny, sad and beautiful.' Melina Marchetta

The Sidekicks is a hypnotic story of friendship, loss, grief, self-discovery and most of all – love. Read this book. Trust me. I loved every word and you will too.' Jennifer Niven

Text type

Fiction

Themes

Coming out, Friendship, Grief, Identity and belonging

General capabilities

Critical and creative thinking,
Ethical understanding
Literacy, Personal and social
capability

Unit of work

penguin.com.au/teachers

Extract

'Oh, we are not actually friends.'

I have to give Miles credit. It takes real skill to be that insensitive. I mean, he's not wrong. When we hang out, people see a group of four, but really, we're three guys with the same best friend. The only thing Miles, Harley and I have ever had in common is Isaac. But when we're in the Deputy's office, and she's saying that something's happened to Isaac, that we should rely on each other for support, he could stand to be a little less right.

Harley groans. He has this general limpness to him, like a puppet missing half its strings. He sinks deeper into his chair. 'Are you that thick?'

'I am not thick,' Miles says.

That's true, he's not. He's second to dux.

About the author

Will Kostakis' first novel, *Loathing Lola*, was released when he was just nineteen, and his second, *The First Third*, won the 2014 Gold Inky Award. It was also shortlisted for the Children's Book Council of Australia Book of the Year and Prime Minister's Literary awards. *The Sidekicks* is his third novel for young adults.

ISBN: 9780143309031

RRP: \$19.99

Pages: 272





Yellow

Megan Jacobson

RELEASED FEBRUARY 2016



Shortlisted in the Older Readers category of the 2017 CBCA Book of the Year Awards.

Text type
Fiction

Themes
Family, Belonging, Diversity,
Paranormal, Murder mystery,
Coming of age

General capabilities
Critical and creative thinking,
Literacy, Personal and social
capability

If fourteen-year-old Kirra is having a mid-life crisis now, then it doesn't bode well for her life expectancy. Her so-called friends bully her, whatever semblance of a mother she had has been drowned at the bottom of a gin bottle ever since her dad left them for another woman, and a teenage ghost is speaking to her through a broken phone booth.

Kirra and the ghost make a pact. She'll prove who murdered him almost twenty years ago if he makes her popular, gets her parents back together, and promises not to haunt her. But things aren't so simple, and Kirra realises that people can be haunted in more ways than one.

'In her first novel, Megan Jacobson reveals herself to be a masterful storyteller . . . This is young-adult fiction at its best.'

Nick Earls

Extract

They would be pretty. Their eyes and lips and noses are arranged in all the proper places, in the proper proportions. They would be pretty, except for the furious expressions they're all wearing as they look at me.

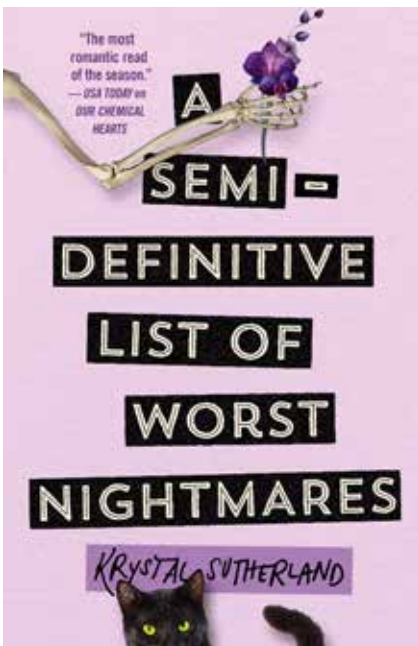
I know this to be true: there is a special corner of hell that's called being a fourteen-year-old girl.

About the author

Megan Jacobson grew up in Darwin and the far north coast of New South Wales, but now lives in Sydney, where she works in TV news production at the ABC. She has a degree in journalism and has worked as a question writer for TV game shows, and as an in-house script storyliner and script editor for several Australian television dramas.

ISBN: 9780143573333
RRP: \$19.99
Pages: 272





Text type
Fiction

Themes
Family, Friendship, Mental health, Romance, Love, Relationships, Grief, Fears

General capabilities
Literacy, Critical and creative thinking, Personal and social capability, Ethical understanding

Unit of work
penguin.com.au/teachers

A Semi-definitive List of Worst Nightmares

Krystal Sutherland



RELEASED AUGUST 2017

From the author of *Our Chemical Hearts* comes the hilarious, reality-bending tale of two outsiders facing their greatest fears about life and love – one debilitating phobia at a time.

Ever since Esther Solar's grandfather met Death, her entire family has been cursed to suffer one great fear in their lifetime – a fear that will eventually lead each and every one of them to their graves. Take Esther's father, for instance: he's an agoraphobe who hasn't left the basement in six years. Then there's her twin brother, Eugene, whose fear of the dark goes far beyond the things that go bump in the night. And her mother, Rosemary, is terrified of bad luck.

As for Esther, she's managed to escape the curse . . . so far. She doesn't yet have a great fear because she avoids pretty much everything. Elevators, small spaces, crowds – anything that might trigger a phobia is off-limits and is recorded in her semi-definitive list of worst nightmares . . . only to discover the one fear she hadn't counted on: love.

Extract

Esther Solar had been waiting outside Lilac Hill Nursing and Rehabilitation Center for half an hour when she received word that the curse had struck again.

Rosemary Solar, her mother, explained over the phone that she would no longer, under any circumstances, be able to pick her daughter up. A cat black as night with demon-yellow slits for eyes had been found sitting atop the hood of the family car – an omen dark enough to prevent her from driving.

About the author

Krystal Sutherland was born and raised in Townsville, Australia, a place that has never experienced winter. Since then she's lived in Sydney, where she edited her university's student magazine; Amsterdam, where she worked as a foreign correspondent; Hong Kong; and London. In 2020 Amazon Prime is releasing a film adaptation of *Our Chemical Hearts*, starring Riverdale's Lili Reinhart, and directed by Richard Tanne.

ISBN: 9780143573913
RRP: \$19.99
Pages: 368





Dumplin'

Julie Murphy

RELEASED SEPTEMBER 2015



With starry Texas nights, red candy suckers, Dolly Parton songs and a wildly unforgettable heroine, *Dumplin'* is guaranteed to steal your heart.

Text type
Fiction

Themes

Self esteem, Female friendship, Family, Belonging, Bravery, Deep South USA.

General capabilities

Critical and creative thinking, Literacy, Personal and social capability

Unit of work
state.lib.la.us

Willowdean Dickson has always been at home in her own skin; her mum calls her Dumplin', right? But when life throws her a curveball, Willow suffers an unwelcome attack of self-doubt. So what's a girl to do? Enter a local Miss Teen Bonnet beauty pageant; of course!

'Murphy . . . successfully makes every piece of the story . . . count, weaving them together to create a harmonious, humorous, and thought-provoking whole.' *Publishers Weekly*

Extract

I wait for Ellen in front of her boyfriend's Jeep as the sun pushes my feet further into the hot blacktop of the school parking lot. Trying not to cringe, I watch as she skips through the exit, weaving in and out of after-school traffic.

El is everything I am not. Tall, blond, and with this impossible goofy yet sexy paradox going on that only seems to exist in romantic comedies. She's always been at home in her own skin.

. . . The word *fat* makes people uncomfortable. But when you see me, the first thing you notice is my body. And my body is fat. It's like how I notice some girls have big boobs or shiny hair or knobby knees. Those things are okay to say. But the word *fat*, the one that best describes me, makes lips frown and cheeks lose their color.

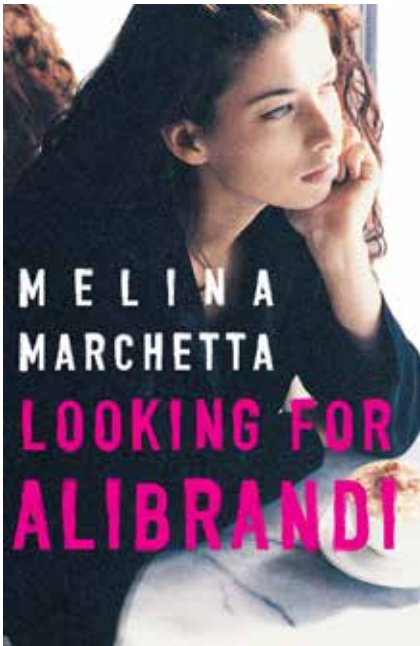
But that's me. I'm fat. It's not a cuss word. It's not an insult. At least it's not when I say it. So I always figure why not get it out of the way?

About the author

Julie Murphy, a former librarian, lives in North Texas with her husband, their Pomeranian pup, and two cats. When she is not writing or out searching for stray cats to add to her family, Julie enjoys reading, traveling, or watching movies. *Dumplin'* is her second novel; it has received two stars from *Publishers Weekly* and *Booklist*. *Dumplin'* has been adapted into a film for Netflix.

ISBN: 9781760890414
RRP: \$17.99
Pages: 384





Text type
Fiction

Themes
Family, Identity, Coming of age, Belonging.

General capabilities
Critical and creative thinking, Literacy, Personal and social capability

Unit of work
penguin.com.au/teachers
readingaustralia.com.au

Looking for Alibrandi

Melina Marchetta

RELEASED OCTOBER 1992



A multi-award-winning, bestselling modern Australian classic. Also an award-winning feature film.

Melina Marchetta's stunning debut novel *Looking for Alibrandi* is one girl's story of her final year at school, a year she sets herself free. Josephine Alibrandi is seventeen and in her final year at a wealthy girls' school. This is the year she meets her father, the year she falls in love, the year she searches for Alibrandi and finds the real truth about her family – and the identity she has been searching for.

A moving and revealing book, unusual for its honesty and its insight into the life of a young person on the brink of adulthood. Multi-award-winning, a bestseller and made into an award-winning feature film, *Looking for Alibrandi* has become a modern classic.

Extract

Panic was my first reaction to the multiple choice options which lay on my desk in front of me. I glanced at the students around me before turning back to question three. I hated multiple choice. Yet I didn't want to get questions three wrong. I didn't want to get any of them wrong. The outcome would be too devastating for my sense of being.

So I began with elimination. 'D' was completely out of the question as was 'A', so that left 'B' and 'C'. I pondered both for quite a while and just as I was about to make my final decision I heard my name being called.

'Josephine?'

'Huh?'

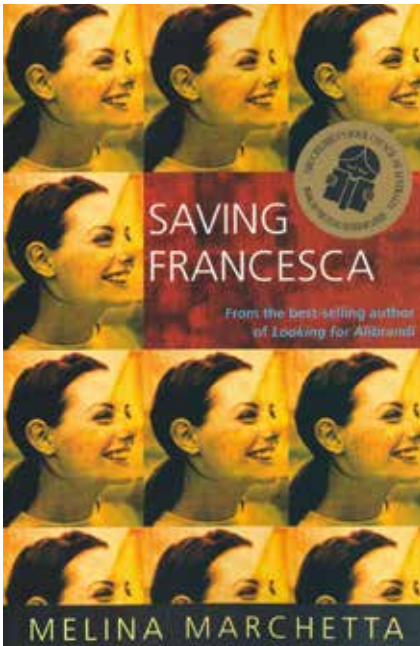
'I think you mean "I beg your pardon" don't you dear?'

About the author

Melina Marchetta is a bestselling author in more than twenty countries and eighteen languages. She has published award-winning young adult, fantasy and crime fiction, including her acclaimed crime novel, *Tell the Truth, Shame the Devil*.

ISBN: 9780140360462
RRP: \$19.99
Pages: 288





Saving Francesca

Melina Marchetta

RELEASED JUNE 2006



A memorable and much-loved Australian classic told with humour, compassion and joy, from the internationally bestselling and multi-award-winning author of *Looking for Alibrandi*.

Text type

Fiction

Themes

Mental health, Family, Friendship, Coming of age, Identity, Belonging

General capabilities

Critical and creative thinking, Ethical understanding, Literacy

Unit of work

penguin.com.au/teachers

Francesca is at the beginning of her second term in Year Eleven at an all boy's school that has just started accepting girls. She still misses her old friends, and, to make things worse, her mother has had a breakdown and can barely move from her bed. But Francesca had not counted on the fierce loyalty of her new friends, or falling in love, or finding that it's within her power to bring her family back together.

'Readers will applaud the realistic complexity in the relationships here, the genuine love between the characters, as well as Francesca's ultimate decision to save herself. Ages 12-up.'

Publishers Weekly

Extract

This morning, my mother didn't get out of bed.

It meant I didn't have to go through one of her daily pep talks which usually begin with a song she puts on at 6.45 every morning. It's mostly 70s and 80s retro crap, anything from 'I Will Survive' to some woman called Kate Bush singing 'Don't Give Up'. When I question her choices she says they're random, but I know that they are subliminal techniques designed to motivate me into being just like her.

But this morning there is no song. There is no advice on how to make friends with the bold and the interesting. No twelve point plan on the best way to make a name for myself in a hostile environment. No motivational messages stuck on my mirror urging me to do something that scares me every day.

There's just silence.

About the author

Melina Marchetta is a bestselling author in more than twenty countries and eighteen languages. She has published award-winning young adult, fantasy and crime fiction, including her acclaimed crime novel, *Tell the Truth, Shame the Devil*. Her much-loved Australian classic, *Looking for Alibrandi*, swept the pool of literary awards when it was published, and was also released as a film, winning an AFI Award.

ISBN: 9780143000976

RRP: \$19.99

Pages: 256





Text type
Fiction

Themes

Bravery, Fairytales, Family, Friendship, Paranormal, Survival

General capabilities

Critical and creative thinking, Literacy, Personal and social capability

Units of work

penguin.com.au/teachers
austlit.edu.au (available to Austlit members only)

ISBN: 9780143574163
RRP: \$19.99
Pages: 400



Valentine

Jodi McAlister

RELEASED FEBRUARY 2017



Sarah J. Maas meets Holly Black with an OzYA twist. *Valentine* is the first book in Jodi McAlister's page-turning paranormal YA series

Strange and terrible things begin to happen to four teenagers – all born on the same Valentine's Day. One of these teenagers is the Valentine: a Seelie fairy changeling swapped for a human child at its birth. The Unseelie have come to kill the Valentine – except they don't know who it is.

Pearl shares a birthday with Finn Blacklin. She's known him all her life and disliked every second of it. But now Pearl and Finn must work together to protect themselves from the sinister forces that are seeking them out.

'Fans of urban fantasy aged 13 years and up will find themselves quite at home.' *Books + Publishing*

'I laughed, cried, gasped, fell in love, held my breath and sat on the edge of my seat.' *Fleur Ferris*

Extract

We might have been at the old stables, but the last thing any of us had expected to see was a horse.

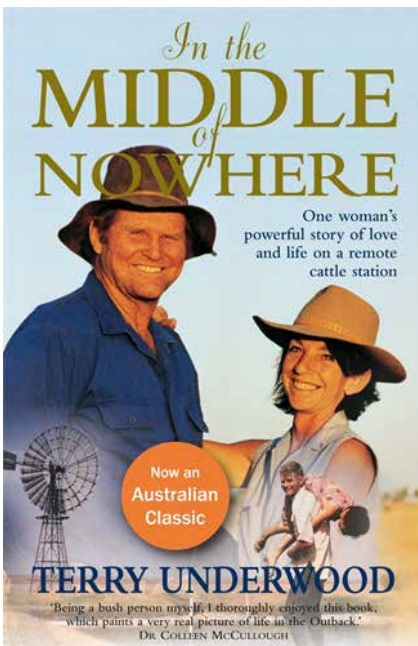
No one's gone and changed the meaning of the word 'abandoned' on me, have they? Because I was pretty clear that it meant deserted, vacant, empty, assorted other shift+F7 adjectives. Abandoned stables = devoid of horses. There is not some super-secret hidden meaning everyone forgot to tell me about, right?

And yet there it is.

About the author

Jodi is an author and academic. Her PhD was awarded by Macquarie University in 2015, and she is currently a lecturer in Writing and Literature at Deakin University in Melbourne. Her academic work focuses on the history of love, sex, women and girls, popular culture and fiction.

Jodi McAlister is an expert in teaching fantasy texts, and has created a unit of work around the subject for austlit.edu.au



Text type
Fiction

Themes
Country life, Drought, Family, Farming, Resilience

General capabilities
Critical and creative thinking, Literacy, Personal and social capability

In the Middle of Nowhere

Terry Underwood

RELEASED SEPTEMBER 1999



***In the Middle of Nowhere* is a story of beating the odds, of the power of love and the strength of family ties to overcome every obstacle.**

Terry met John at St Vincents Hospital, where she was training to be a nurse and he was recuperating from a horse-riding accident. They wrote love letters to each other for five years before marrying. Terry's new home on the huge pastoral lease of Riveren consisted of a tent and a newly drilled bore. The newlyweds literally built their station from scratch, brick by brick, and raised and educated their four children on the station.

In the Middle of Nowhere is a story told with warmth and a knowledge of the bush, its people, and the issues facing the Northern Territory of Australia today.

'Being a bush person myself, I thoroughly enjoyed this book, which paints a very real picture of life in the Outback.'

Dr Colleen McCullough

Extract: Foreword

There can never be enough written about the pioneers of Outback Australia. There is a fascination with people who shun modern comforts for a life of hardship in the harshest environment this country can offer.

The story of John and Terry Underwood is as gutsy as it gets.

... As you read their intriguing story you'll think, 'How can they do it? Why would they do it?' It takes a special breed to accept the challenge.

About the author

Terry, a modern pioneer cattlegwoman, published her overnight bestselling autobiography *In The Middle Of Nowhere* in 1999 and its stunning photographic sequel *Riveren: My Home, Our Country* in 2000. Terry's books and photography, and her many speaking engagements, have helped convey a sense of what is so special about the Northern Territory, the Australian Outback and their people to a much wider audience.

ISBN: 9780733801914
RRP: \$19.99
Pages: 368





Text type
Fiction

Themes
Shakespeare

General capabilities
Critical and creative thinking,
Literacy, Personal and social
capability

Hag-Seed Margaret Atwood

RELEASED AUGUST 2017



**The 'riotous, insanely readable' new novel
from the author of *The Handmaid's Tale*.**

Felix is at the top of his game as Artistic Director of the Makeshiweg Theatre Festival. His productions have amazed and confounded. Now he's staging a *Tempest* like no other. It will boost his reputation. It will heal emotional wounds.

Or that was the plan. Instead, after an act of unforeseen treachery, Felix is living in exile in a backwoods hovel, haunted by memories of his beloved lost daughter, Miranda. Also brewing revenge.

After twelve years, revenge finally arrives in the shape of a theatre course at a nearby prison. Here, Felix and his inmate actors will put on his *Tempest* and snare the traitors who destroyed him. It's magic! But will it remake Felix as his enemies fall?

'Without question the cleverest "neo-Shakespearean novel" I have ever read.' *The Times*

Extract

Felix brushes his teeth. Then he brushes his other teeth, the false ones, and slides them into his mouth. Despite the layers of pink adhesive he's applied, they don't fit very well; perhaps his mouth is shrinking. He smiles: the illusion of a smile. Pretence, fakery, but who's to know?

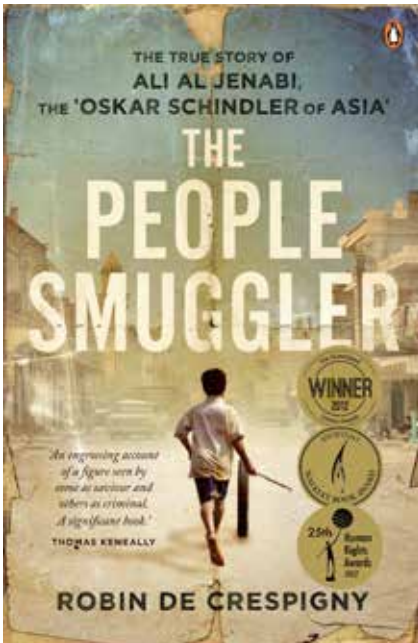
Once he would have called his dentist and made an appointment, and the luxurious faux-leather chair would have been his, the concerned face smelling of mint mouthwash, the skilled hands wielding gleaming instruments. *Ah yes, I see the problem. No worries, we'll get that fixed for you.* Like taking his car in for a tuneup.

About the author

Margaret Atwood is the author of more than fifty books of fiction, poetry and critical essays. Atwood has won numerous awards including the Booker Prize, the Arthur C. Clarke Award for Imagination in Service to Society, the Franz Kafka Prize, the Peace Prize of the German Book Trade and the PEN USA Lifetime Achievement Award.

ISBN: 9780099594024
RRP: \$22.99
Pages: 320





Text type
Non-Fiction

Themes

Refugee experience, Family, Sacrifice, Resilience, Survival, Iraq

General capabilities

Critical and creative thinking, Ethical understanding, Intercultural understanding, Literacy

Cross-curriculum priorities

Asia and Australia's engagement with Asia

Unit of work

penguin.com.au/teachers

The People Smuggler

Robin de Crespigny

RELEASED APRIL 2012



The gripping, inspiring story of one man's escape from Saddam's Iraq to become 'the Oskar Schindler of Asia'.

When Ali Al Jenabi flees Saddam Hussein's torture chambers, he is forced to leave his family behind in Iraq. What follows is an incredible international odyssey through the shadowy world of fake passports, crowded camps and illegal border crossings, living every day with excruciating uncertainty about what the next will bring. Through betrayal, triumph, misfortune – even romance and heartbreak – Ali is sustained by his fierce love of freedom and family. Continually pushed to the limits of his endurance, eventually he must confront what he has been forced to become.

At once a non-fiction thriller and a moral maze, this is one man's epic story of trying to find a safe place in the world.

'This is a story every Australian should read . . . a complex mixture of love of family and a hard-edged determination to survive in a brutal, unforgiving world.' *Sydney Morning Herald*

Extract

I had assumed we would be going the same way as when I finally escaped from the border camp in '97.

'Isn't it safer through the mountains?' I say, trying not to show my irritation.

'I always go on the road,' he replies casually.

'Great,' I say and glare at Mustafa. 'I appreciate your deal,' I tell Fadi, 'but it's worth nothing if you can't get us there.'

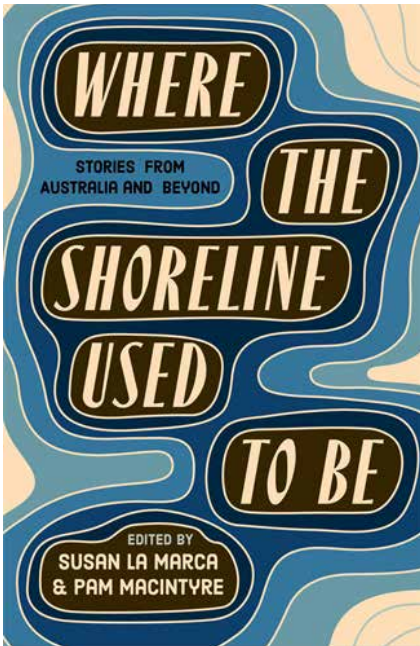
'Don't worry.' He waves his hands dismissively. 'You get there.'

About the author

Robin de Crespigny has spent three years working with Ali Al Jenabi to write his story. She is a film maker and lives in Sydney. This is her first book.

ISBN: 9780143569183
RRP: \$24.99
Pages: 384





Text type

Fiction and poetry

General capabilities

Critical and creative thinking,
Ethical understanding,
Intercultural understanding,
Literacy, Personal and social
capability

Cross-curriculum priorities

Aboriginal and Torres
Strait Islander histories and
cultures, Asia and Australia's
engagement with Asia,
Sustainability

Unit of work

penguin.com.au/teachers

Where the Shoreline Used to Be

Susan La Marca & Pam Macintyre

RELEASED MARCH 2016

Funny, dramatic and poignant by turns, *Where the Shoreline Used to Be* is a stunning collection that will challenge and excite your imagination.

A rich and unique collection of short fiction, poetry, illustration and song lyrics from Australia and beyond.

An encounter with a strange boy on a beach, a dog in space, a world of butterflies, a talking whale, two girls who take on the world, and a thousand silver ghosts . . . Like the pull of the tide, these stories and poems will draw you in and encourage you to explore.

Including: Shaun Tan, Trudy White, Amie Kaufman, Scot Gardner, Kate Miller-Heidke, Alice Pung, Arwa Abousamra, Felicity Castagna, Gayle Kennedy, Davina Bell, Meg Mckinlay, Kyle Hughes-Odgers, Margo Lanagan, Leanne Hall, Courtney Barnett, Shivaun Plozza, Wil Wagner, Lizzie Wagner, PM Freestone, Meg Caddy, Barry Jonsberg, Tony Birch, Andrea Hirata

Extract

Diversity of genre, style and form is central to this anthology. Providing variety and exposing readers to different narrative forms celebrates the power of story and puts formidable writing in the hands of readers. We hope that our aim of offering readers pleasure and enjoyment in their reading will support such experiences in the classroom and beyond.

About the authors

Dr Susan La Marca is a consultant in the areas of children's and young adult literature and school libraries.

Dr Pam Macintyre teaches language and literacy and children's and young adult literature at RMIT University.

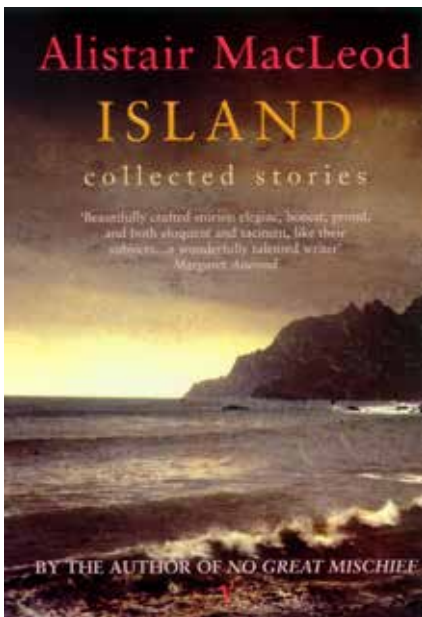
Together, they have edited two collections: *Things a Map Won't Show You*, for middle grade readers, and *Where the Shoreline Used to Be*, for senior high school students.

ISBN: 9780143573227

RRP: \$24.99

Pages: 256





Text type

Fiction, Short stories

Themes

Community, Growing up, Grief, Guilt, Identity, Island life, Memory, Mining, Reality, The sea, Tradition

General capabilities

Critical and creative thinking, Literacy, Personal and social capability

Island

Alistair MacLeod

RELEASED OCTOBER 2002



The collected stories by one of the greatest short-story writers in the world.

These slow, beautiful stories – resolute and resonant – are small masterpieces: apparently simple but actually crafted with enormous skill and precision. Set against the unforgiving landscape of Cape Breton, Nova Scotia, they are all concerned with the complexities and mysteries of the human heart, the unbreakable bonds and unbridgeable chasms between man and woman, parent and child.

Steeped in memory and myth and washed in the brine and blood of the long battle with the land and the sea, these stories celebrate a passionate engagement with the natural world and a continuity of the generations in the face of transition, in the face of love and loss.

Bringing together all Alistair MacLeod's short fiction, and including two previously uncollected stories, *Island* represents the great achievement of one of the world's finest storytellers.

'Startling in their simple perfection.' *Sunday Tribune*

Extract

There are times even now, when I awake at four o'clock in the morning with the terrible fear that I have overslept; when I imagine that my father is waiting for me in the room below the darkened stairs or that the shorebound men are tossing pebbles against my window while blowing their hands and stomping their feet impatiently on the frozen steadfast earth. There are times when I am half out of bed and fumbling for socks and mumbling for words before I realise that I am foolishly alone, that no one waits at the base of the stairs and no boat rides restlessly in the waters by the pier.

About the author

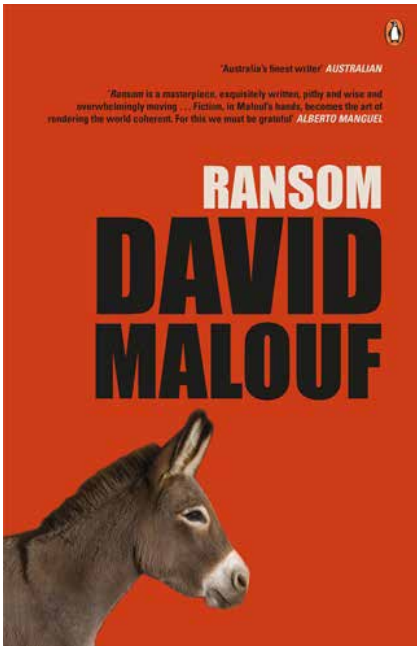
Alistair MacLeod was born in 1936 and raised in Cape Breton, Nova Scotia. MacLeod is the author of two short story collections, *The Lost Salt Gilt of Blood* (1976) and *As Birds Bring Forth the Sun and Other Stories* (1986) and the novel, *No Great Mischief*, published in 1999. All of his published short stories, plus one new piece, were collected in *Island*, published in 2000. Alistair MacLeod died in 2014.

ISBN: 9780099422327

RRP: \$19.99

Pages: 448





Text type
Fiction

Themes
Fables, Family bonds, Fate, Greek myths, Heroism, Trojan war, War

General capabilities
Critical and creative thinking, Literacy, Personal and social capability

Author interview
readingaustralia.com.au

Ransom David Malouf

RELEASED 2009



David Malouf's fable engraves the epic themes of the Trojan war onto a perfect miniature.

David Malouf shines new light on Homer's *Iliad*, adding twists and reflections, as well as flashes of earthy humour, to surprise and enchant. In this exquisite gem of a novel, Achilles is maddened by grief at the death of his friend Patroclus. From the walls of Troy, King Priam watches the body of his son, Hector, being dragged behind Achilles' chariot. There must be a way, he thinks, of reclaiming the body – of pitting compromise against heroics, new ways against the old, and of forcing the hand of fate. Dressed simply and in a cart pulled by a mule, an old man sets off for the Greek camp . . .

Lyrical, immediate and heartbreaking Malouf's fable engraves the epic themes of the Trojan war onto a perfect miniature – themes of war and heroics, hubris and humanity, chance and fate, the bonds between soldiers, fathers and sons, all newly burnished and brilliantly recast for our times.

Extract

The sea has many voices. The voice this man is listening for is the voice of his mother. He lifts his head, turns his face to the chill air that moves in across the gulf, and tastes its sharp salt on his lip. The sea surface bellies and glistens, a lustrous silver-blue – a membrane stretched to a fine transparency where once, for nine changes of the moon, he had hung curled in a dream of pre-existence and was rocked and comforted. He hunkers down now on the shelving pebbles at its edge, bunches his cloak between his thighs. Chin down, shoulders hunched, attentive.

About the author

David Malouf is the internationally acclaimed author of novels including *The Great World* (winner of the Commonwealth Writers' prize and the Prix Femina Etranger), *Remembering Babylon* (shortlisted for the Booker Prize and winner of the IMPAC Dublin Literary Award), *An Imaginary Life*, *Conversations at Curlow Creek*, *Dream Stuff*, *Every Move You Make*, his autobiographical classic *12 Edmondstone Street* and *Ransom*. His *Collected Stories* won the 2008 Australia-Asia Literary Award. In 2008 Malouf was the Scottish Arts' Council Muriel Spark International Fellow.

ISBN: 9780143790846
RRP: \$19.99
Pages: 240





Text type
Fiction

Themes
Feminism, Violence, Sexism,
Speculative fiction, Society
and culture

General capabilities
Critical and creative thinking,
Ethical understanding,
Intercultural understanding,
Literacy

The Power Naomi Alderman

RELEASED OCTOBER 2016



'Electrifying! Shocking! Will knock your socks off! Then you'll think twice, about everything.' - Margaret Atwood

In *The Power* the world is a recognisable place: there's a rich Nigerian kid who larks around the family pool; a foster girl whose religious parents hide their true nature; a local American politician; a tough London girl from a tricky family. But something vital has changed, causing their lives to converge, with devastating effects. Now, with the flick of a switch, teenage girls can cause agonizing pain and even death. And, with this small twist of nature, the world changes utterly.

This extraordinary novel by Naomi Alderman, a Sunday Times Young Writer of the Year and Granta Best of Young British writer, is not only a gripping story of how the world would change if physical power was in the hands of women but also exposes, with breath-taking daring, our contemporary world.

Extract

There was a time when every crevice of this child's body was Margot's to clean and care for. It is not OK with her not to know her own child's strength. 'No more secrets. Show me.'

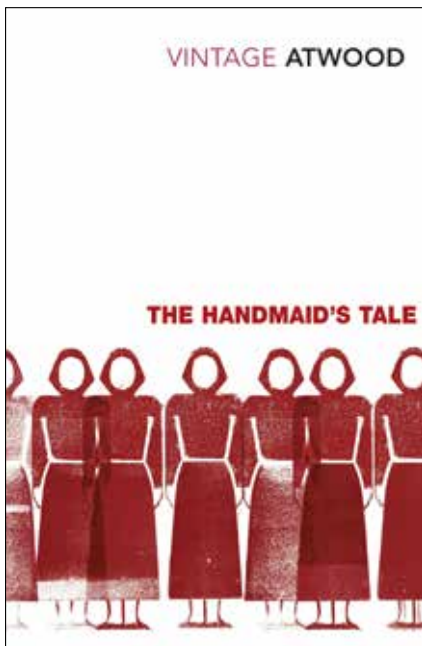
Jos is near to tears. She places her forefinger and her middle finger on her mother's arm. Margot waits to see Jos do something; hold her breath, or wrinkle her brow, or show exertion in the muscles of her arm, but there's nothing. Only the pain.

About the author

Naomi Alderman is the author of four novels: *Disobedience*, *The Lessons*, *The Power* and *The Liar's Gospel*. She has won the Orange Award for New Writers and the Sunday Times Young Writer of the Year Award. She was selected for Granta's Best of Young British Novelists, and Waterstones' 25 Writers for the Future. All of her novels have been broadcast on BBC Radio 4's *Book at Bedtime*. She lives in London.

ISBN: 9780670919963
RRP: \$19.99
Pages: 288





The Handmaid's Tale

Margaret Atwood



RELEASED 1985

Brilliantly conceived and executed, this powerful vision of the future gives full rein to Margaret Atwood's irony, wit and astute perception.

Text type
Fiction

Themes
Gender issues, Power and control, Language, Relationships, Society, Dystopian future

General capabilities
Critical and creative thinking, Ethical understanding, Intercultural understanding, Literacy

Book club notes
penguin.com.au/book-clubs

Also available as an [audiobook](#), read by Elisabeth Moss

ISBN: 9780099511663
RRP: \$14.99
Pages: 336



Page 123

Offred is a Handmaid in the Republic of Gilead. She has only one function: to breed. If she deviates, she will, like dissenters, be hanged at the wall or sent out to die slowly of radiation sickness. But even a repressive state cannot obliterate desire – neither Offred's nor that of the two men on which her future hangs.

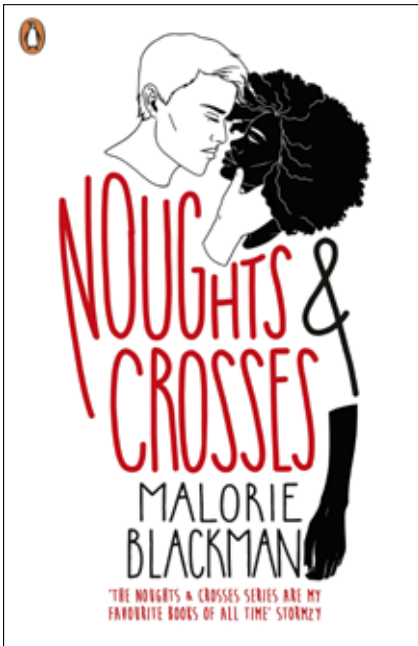
The Handmaid's Tale is both a superlative exercise in science fiction and a profoundly felt moral story. *Angela Carter*

Extract

We slept in what had once been the gymnasium. The floor was of varnished wood, with stripes and circles painted on it, for the games that were formerly played there; the hoops for the basketball nets were still in place, though the nets were gone. A balcony ran around the room, for the spectators, and I thought I could smell, faintly like an afterimage, the pungent scent of sweat, shot through the sweet taint of chewing gum and perfume from the watching girls, felt-skirted as I knew from pictures, later in mini-skirts, then pants, then in one earring, spiky green-streaked hair. Dances would have been held there; the music lingered, a palimpsest of unheard sound, style upon style, an undercurrent of drums, a forlorn wail, garlands made of tissue-paper flowers, cardboard devils, a revolving ball of mirrors, powdering the dancers with a snow of light.

About the author

Margaret Atwood is the author of more than fifty books of fiction, poetry and critical essays. Her novels include *Cat's Eye*, *The Robber Bride*, *Alias Grace*, *The Blind Assassin* and the MaddAddam Trilogy. Her 1985 classic *The Handmaid's Tale* went back into the bestseller charts with the election of Donald Trump, when the Handmaids became a symbol of resistance against him; and the 2017 release of the award-winning Channel 4 TV series. Sales of the English language edition have now topped 8 million copies worldwide.



Text type
Fiction

Themes
Racism, Terrorism,
Relationships, Survival,
Prejudice

General capabilities
Critical and creative thinking,
Ethical understanding,
Intercultural understanding,
Literacy

Also available
[Graphic novel](#)

Noughts & Crosses

Malorie Blackman

RELEASED MAY 2010



Perfect for fans of *The Handmaid's Tale* and *The Power* – soon to be a major new BBC TV series!

Sephy is a Cross: dark-skinned and beautiful, she lives a life of privilege and power. But she burns with injustice at the world she sees around her. Callum is a nought: pale-skinned and poor, he's considered to be less than nothing. But he dreams of a better life.

Then – in spite of a world that is fiercely against them – these star-crossed lovers choose each other. But this is a love story that will lead both of them into terrible danger . . . and which will have shocking repercussions for generations to come.

'At the heart of Malorie Blackman's young adult novel is an inspired idea, all the more radical for its simplicity: imagine if the power in the world rested not with the white population but with the black.' *The Guardian*

Extract

'Us noughts and you Crosses.' I shook my head. 'It makes it sound like . . . like you're in one place and I'm in another, with a huge, great wall between us.'

Callum looked out across the sea. 'Maybe we are in different places . . .'

'No, we aren't. Not if we don't want to be, we aren't.' I willed Callum to look at me.

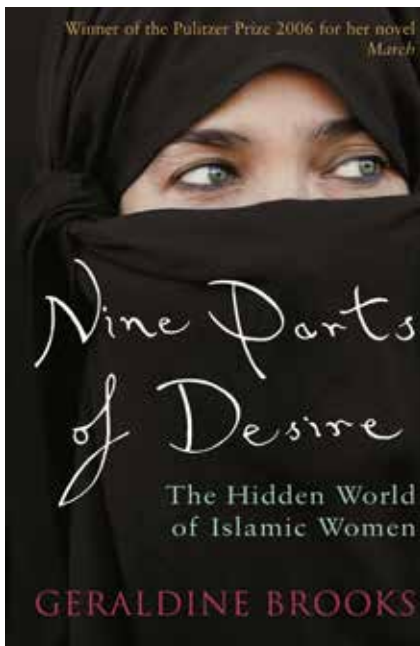
'I wish it was that simple.'

About the author

Malorie Blackman has written over 60 books for children and young adults, including the Noughts & Crosses series, *Thief* and most recently her science fiction thriller *Chasing the Stars*. Her work has also been adapted for TV with *Pig-Heart Boy* winning a BAFTA and *Noughts & Crosses* currently in production for the BBC. A stage adaptation of the book, by Pilot Theatre, will run from February 2019, under the direction of Sabrina Mahfouz.

ISBN: 9780141378640
RRP: \$19.99
Pages: 496





Text type
Fiction

Themes
Gender issues, Religion and philosophy, Society and culture

General capabilities
Critical and creative thinking, Ethical understanding, Intercultural understanding, Literacy

Unit of work
readingaustralia.com.au

Nine Parts of Desire

Geraldine Brooks

RELEASED MARCH 2008

The hidden world of Islamic women.

Australian writer Geraldine Brooks is now known internationally for her bestselling novels, but as a foreign correspondent Geraldine spent six years covering the Middle East. And when her poised and sophisticated assistant at the Cairo bureau of the Wall Street Journal suddenly 'adopted the uniform of a Muslim fundamentalist', Geraldine Brooks set out to discover the truth about women and Islam. Sometimes adopting a chador as camouflage, she was granted meetings (and often astonishingly intimate insights) by everyone from Queen Noor of Jordan to former Iranian President Rafsanjani's daughter. She met with Palestinians protesting about 'honour killings' for adultery and sheltered girls transformed into warriors by the Emirates' armed forces. Throughout the Middle East, Brooks was invited into the homes and lives of these women where she found real stories that overturn western stereotypes.

'Frank, enraging and captivating.' *The New Yorker*

Extract

The hotel receptionist held my reservation card in his hand. "Mr. Geraldine Brooks," he read. "But you are a woman."

Yes, I agreed, that was so.

"I'm sorry, but our reservation clerk has made a mistake."

"That's okay," I said. "Just add an s and make it 'Mrs.'"

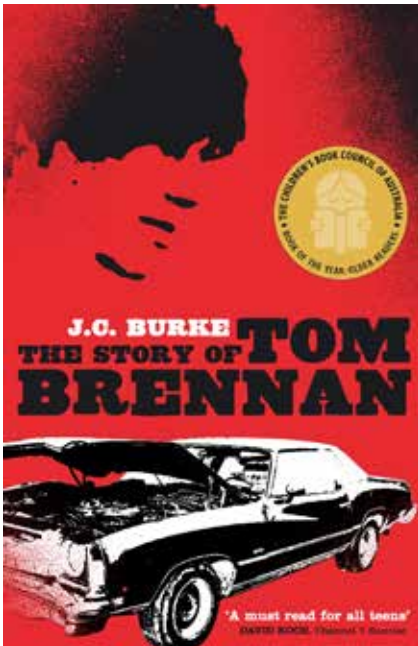
"No," he said. "You don't understand. I can't give you a room. It's against the law for women."

About the author

Geraldine Brooks is the Australian-born author of the bestselling novels *Caleb's Crossing*, *People of the Book*, *Year of Wonders* and *March*, for which she won the Pulitzer Prize. She is also the author of the acclaimed non-fiction works *Nine Parts of Desire* and *Foreign Correspondence*. A graduate of Sydney University and the Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism, Brooks was a correspondent for The Wall Street Journal in Bosnia, Somalia and the Middle East.

ISBN: 9781863256124
RRP: \$19.99
Pages: 272





Text type
Fiction

Themes
Coming of age, Conflict,
Drink driving and its effect on
families and communities,
Family, Friendship, Grief

General capabilities
Critical and creative thinking,
Ethical understanding,
Literacy

Units of work
penguin.com.au/teachers

**CONTAINS SEXUAL
REFERENCES**

The Story of Tom Brennan

J. C. Burke

RELEASED OCTOBER 2005



**A powerful story of love and loss, secrets and revelations –
and making sense of a past that once seemed perfect.**

For Tom Brennan, life is about rugby, mates and family – until a night of celebration changes his life forever. Tom's world explodes as his brother Daniel is sent to jail and the Brennans are forced to leave the small town Tom's lived in his whole life. Tom is a survivor, but he needs a ticket out of the past just as much as Daniel. He will find it in many forms . . .

***'At a time when communities and government are searching for ways of reducing road trauma among youth following recent horrific road carnage, this is indeed a timely novel.'* Viewpoint**

Extract

'Who's going to say grace?' announced my grandmother, a self-appointed messenger of God.

It wasn't really a question. She'd already decided I was the one as she was glaring in my direction.

'Thank you, Tom.' She smiled. 'That would be lovely.'

Thanking God was about the furthest thing from my mind but choice, your standard, everyday human right, was something that didn't exist in my grandmother's house. She probably considered it 'indulgent', one of her favourite words.

I began. 'In the name of the . . .'

She interrupted before my finger had even reached my forehead.

'I'm sorry, Tom.' She shook her head. 'I don't think everyone's ready for grace. Kylie, where's your mother?'

About the author

Since J. C. Burke started writing in 1999, she has published a number of critically acclaimed books for teenagers and young adults. She lives in Sydney with her family.

ISBN: 9781741660920
RRP: \$17.99
Pages: 288





Text type
Memoir

Themes
Death, Forgiveness, Grief, Loss, Memory, Perspective, Place, The search for connection, Time, Trauma, HIV and AIDS, Memoir, Love, LGBTQI perspective

General capabilities
Critical and creative thinking, Ethical understanding, Literacy

Further reading
wheelercentre.com/projects

ISBN: 9780143009498
RRP: \$22.99
Pages: 304



Holding the Man

Timothy Conigrave

RELEASED JULY 1996

As uplifting as it is moving, *Holding the Man* is a funny, sad and celebratory account of growing up gay, and a powerful love story.

In the mid-seventies at an all-boys Catholic school in Melbourne, Timothy Conigrave fell wildly and sweetly in love with the captain of the football team. So began a relationship that was to last for fifteen years, a love affair that weathered disapproval, separation and, ultimately, death.

With honesty and insight, Conigrave's bestselling memoir explores the highs and lows of any partnership: the intimacy, constraints and temptations. And the strength of heart both men had to find when they tested positive to HIV.

As uplifting as it is moving, *Holding the Man* is a funny, sad and celebratory account of growing up gay, and a powerful love story.

'Full of compassion, candour and zest for life' *The Australian*

Extract

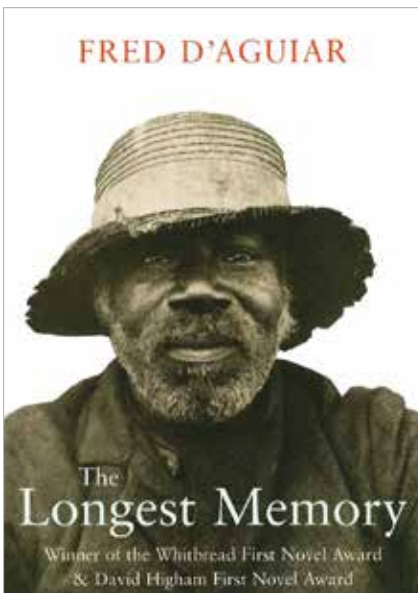
Damien took my arm and put it around his waist, smiled and turned to the screen. The film was about a cactus getting out of hand somewhere and the moth that was helping to keep it under control. It could have been about Auschwitz. All I could think of was my arm around Damien's waist. It felt like it had found its home. It felt right. It felt safe.

About the author

Timothy Conigrave was born in Melbourne in 1959 and educated at Xavier College and Monash University. He trained as an actor at the National Institute of Dramatic Art, graduating in 1984. He appeared in such plays as *Brighton Beach Memoirs* and *As Is*. He initiated the project *Soft Targets*, seen at Griffin Theatre in 1986. His other plays include *Blitz Kids* and *Thieving Boy*. Timothy Conigrave died in October 1994, shortly after completing his book *Holding the Man*.

Winner of the 1995 Human Rights Award for Non-fiction

Holding the Man was made into a 2015 feature film starring Ryan Corr and Craig Stott with supporting roles by Guy Pearce and Anthony LaPaglia. It was directed by Neil Armfield.



The Longest Memory

Fred D'Aguiar

RELEASED SEPTEMBER 1995

Remarkable for its keenness of observation, subtlety, and restraint, this is the arrival of a major new voice in the contemporary literature of the African diaspora.

Text type
Fiction

Themes
Morality, Race and representation, History and memory, Cultural identity, Power, Bravery, Resilience, Overcoming adversity, Survival

General capabilities
Critical and creative thinking, Ethical understanding, Intercultural understanding, Literacy, Personal and social capability

Units of work
[tes.com/lessons](https://www.tes.com/lessons)

In language extraordinary for its tautness and resonance, *The Longest Memory* tells the story of a rebellious, fiercely intelligent young slave, who in 1810 attempts to flee a Virginia plantation – and of his father who inadvertently betrays him. The young slave's love for a white girl who slakes his forbidden thirst for learning and his painful relationship with his father are hauntingly evoked in this novel of astonishing lyrical simplicity. It is a measure of D'Aguiar's achievement and bravery that *The Longest Memory* is informed not only by the complicities between black slave and white master but also by the tensions among slaves themselves – between stoic survivalists and passionate rebels.

'A haunting novel whose brevity and directness belie the depths of tragedy it plumbs.' *Guardian*

Extract

The future is just more of the past waiting to happen. You do not want to know my past nor do you want to know my name for the simple reason that I have none and would have to make it up to please you . . .

That morning I faced the world for the first time as a nobody, nameless. Because I had no name I was able to return to my body-shaped space on the straw mat on the floor, clear a few limbs out of the way and sleep so deep I was the last to rise, when before I'd lie there and listen to the others breathe, snore, talk in their sleep, cry out, whimper, shield their heads from a blow, contract their bodies to receive a lash, kick and punch as if bloodhounds were upon them, grind their teeth so loud it sounded like two huge stones rubbed together, whinny like horses and bray like mules, grunt like hogs, howl like wolves, or just plain die with a gasp.

About the author

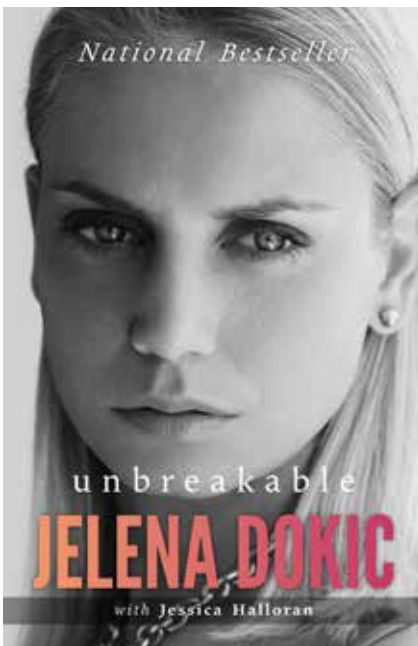
Fred D'Aguiar is a poet and novelist. Born in 1960, he was raised in Guyana and London. His first novel, *The Longest Memory*, won the 1994 Whitbread First Novel Award.

ISBN: 9780099462217

RRP: \$19.99

Pages: 144





Text type

Non-fiction biography
memoir

Themes

Family, Sport, Resilience,
Refugee experience, Mental
health

General capabilities

Critical and creative thinking,
Ethical understanding,
Intercultural understanding,
Literacy

Unbreakable

Jelena Dokic & Jess Halloran

RELEASED NOVEMBER 2017

This is a story of Jelena Dokic's survival. How she survived as a refugee, twice. How she survived on the tennis court to become world No. 4. But, most importantly, how she survived her father, Damir Dokic, the tennis dad from hell.

Jelena was a prodigious talent, heralded as Australia's greatest tennis hope since Evonne Goolagong. She had exceptional skills, a steely nerve and an extraordinary ability to fight on the court. Off it she endured huge challenges; being an 'outsider' in her new country, poverty and racism. Still she starred on the tennis court. By 18, she was in the world's top 10. By 19, she was No. 4. The world was charmed by her and her story – a refugee whose family had made Australia home when she was eleven years old.

From war-torn Yugoslavia to Sydney to Wimbledon, she narrates her hellish ascent to becoming one of the best tennis players in the women's game, and her heart-breaking fall from the top.

'No ordinary sporting memoir, Unbreakable has the gutwrenching quality of a Greek myth: a daughter torn between loyalty to her family and her need to breakfree in order to survive.' *Launceston Examiner*

Extract

The dull slur in his slow, loud voice tells me he is drunk. I know this tone; it's the tone of white wine and probably a few glasses of whisky. He is angry. Furious that I lost. His voice booms down the phone. 'You are pathetic, you are a hopeless cow, you are not to come home. You are an embarrassment. You can't stay at our hotel.'

'But, Dad ...' I say quietly, trying to plead with him.

'You need to go and find somewhere else to sleep,' he yells at the top of his voice. 'Stay at Wimbledon and sleep there somewhere ... Or wherever else. I don't care.' He hangs up.

ISBN: 9780143784241

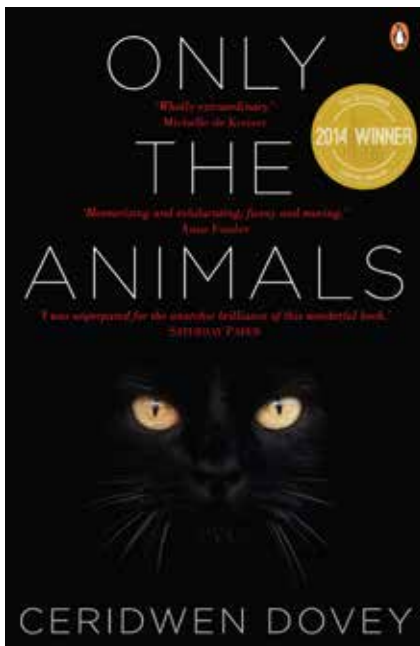
RRP: \$22.99

Pages: 320



About the authors

Unbreakable was co-written with Jelena Dokic and Jessica Halloran, an award-winning senior sports writer with News Corp.



Text type

Fiction, Short stories

Themes

Humanity and what does it mean?, Empathy, Instinct and nature vs the rational mind, Belonging

General capabilities

Critical and creative thinking, Ethical understanding, Literacy

Discussion points

penguin.com.au/book-clubs

Only the Animals

Ceridwen Dovey

RELEASED FEBRUARY 2015



An animal's-eye view of humans at our brutal worst and our creative best, *Only the Animals* asks us to believe again in the redemptive power of reading and writing fiction.

Perhaps only the animals can tell us what it is to be human.

The souls of ten animals caught up in human conflicts over the last century tell their astonishing stories of life and death. In a trench on the Western Front a cat recalls her owner Colette's theatrical antics in Paris. In Nazi Germany a dog seeks enlightenment. A Russian tortoise once owned by the Tolstoy's drifts in space during the Cold War. In the siege of Sarajevo a bear starving to death tells a fairytale. And a dolphin sent to Iraq by the US Navy writes a letter to Sylvia Plath . . .

'The most original, surprising and inspired book I read this year.'
Weekend Australian

'I was unprepared for the anarchic brilliance of this wonderful book.' *The Saturday Paper*

Extract

The three of us were nodding off around the campfire, the queen's yellow bones in a sack beside my owner, when I saw the goanna watching us again, the same one that had stalked us through the bush for days.

Mister Mitchell was already asleep on his swag, wrapped in an expensive blanket he had brought with him from Sydney for the expedition. But the poet drifter we'd picked up in Hungerford, Henry Lawson, was still awake. He lifted the square of calico he'd put over his eyes to block out the light of the moon and listened. The goanna was moving through the dry leaves, making them scrape against one another like cartilage.

About the author

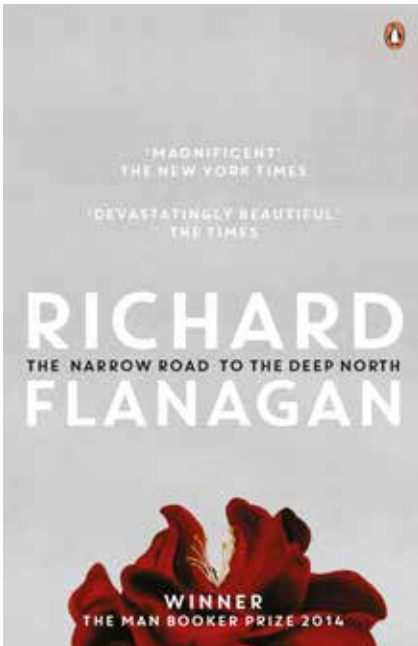
Ceridwen Dovey's debut novel, *Blood Kin*, was shortlisted for the Dylan Thomas Award and selected for the US National Book Foundation's prestigious '5 Under 35' honours list. Her short story collection, *Only the Animals*, won the Readings New Australian Writing Award. She also writes non-fiction for various publications, including *newyorker.com* and *The Monthly*.

ISBN: 9780143573012

RRP: \$19.99

Pages: 256





Text type

Contemporary fiction

Themes

History, Action and adventure, Romance

General capabilities

Critical and creative thinking, Ethical understanding, Intercultural understanding, Literacy

Units of work

readingaustralia.com.au

The Narrow Road to the Deep North

Richard Flanagan



RELEASED SEPTEMBER 2013

Winner of the Man Booker Prize 2014. A novel of the cruelty of war, tenuousness of life and the impossibility of love.

August, 1943. In the despair of a Japanese POW camp on the Thai-Burma death railway, Australian surgeon Dorrigo Evans is haunted by his love affair with his uncle's young wife two years earlier. Struggling to save the men under his command from starvation, from cholera, from beatings, he receives a letter that will change his life forever.

This savagely beautiful novel is a story about the many forms of love and death, of war and truth, as one man comes of age, prospers, only to discover all that he has lost.

'Beyond comparison . . . an immense achievement . . . Wilfred Owen wrote of his Great War verse: "My subject is war, and the pity of war. The poetry is in the pity." Flanagan's triumph is to find poetry without any pity at all.' *Geordie Williamson, The Australian*

Extract

Why at the beginning of things is there always light? Dorrigo Evans' earliest memories were of sun flooding a church hall in which he sat with his mother and grandmother. A wooden church hall. Blinding light and him toddling back and forth, in and out of its transcendent welcome, into the arms of women. Women who loved him. Like entering the sea and returning to the beach. Over and over.

Bless you, his mother says as she holds him and lets him go.
Bless you, boy.

About the author

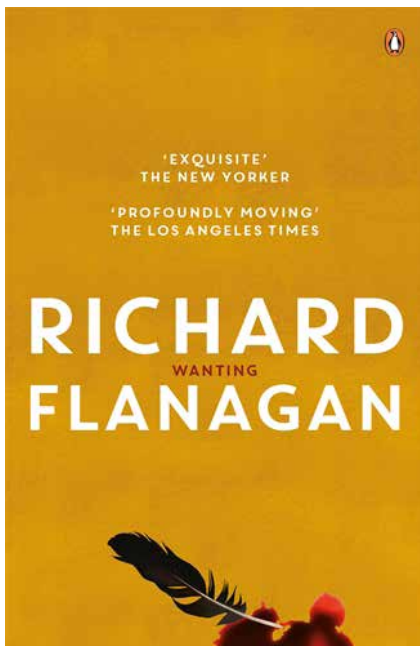
Richard Flanagan was born in Tasmania in 1961. His novels *Death of a River Guide*, *The Sound of One Hand Clapping*, *Gould's Book of Fish*, *The Unknown Terrorist*, *Wanting*, *The Narrow Road to the Deep North* and *First Person* have received numerous honours and are published in 42 countries. He won the Man Booker Prize for *The Narrow Road to the Deep North* in 2014.

ISBN: 9780143790747

RRP: \$19.99

Pages: 480





Wanting Richard Flanagan

RELEASED NOVEMBER 2008



The bestselling, universally lauded novel of desire and its denial from acclaimed writer Richard Flanagan.

Text type
Fiction

Themes
Racism, Indigenous experience, Tasmanian settlement, Australian Colonial History, Desire, Victorian Life, Charles Dickens

General capabilities
Critical and creative thinking, Literacy, Personal and social capability

Cross-curriculum priorities
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories and cultures

Van Diemen's Land, 1841. Mathinna, the adopted Aboriginal daughter of the island's governor, Sir John Franklin, and his wife, Lady Jane, sits for her portrait. She is the subject of a grand experiment in civilisation – one that will determine whether science and reason can be imposed in place of savagery and desire.

Years pass. Sir John Franklin disappears on an Arctic expedition to find the fabled Northwest Passage. England is horrified as reports of cannibalism filter back from search parties, no one more so than the most celebrated novelist of the day, Charles Dickens, for whom Franklin's story becomes a means to plumb the frozen depths of his own soul.

As several lives become entwined, *Wanting* transforms the classical myth of Leda and the swan into a novel about the ways in which desire – and its denial – shape us all.

Extract

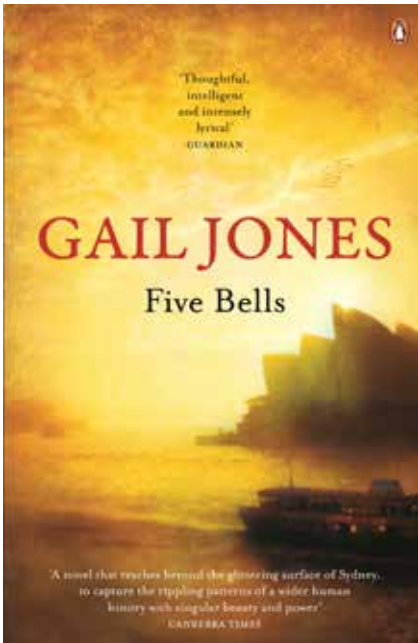
The war had ended as wars sometimes do, unexpectedly. A man no one much cared for, a rather pumped-up little Presbyterian carpenter cum preacher, had travelled unarmed and in the company of tame blacks through the great wild lands of the island, and had returned with a motley cluster of savages. They were called wild blacks, though wild they most certainly were not, but rather scabby, miserable and often consumptive. They were, he said – and remarkably it did now seem – all that remained of the once feared Van Diemonian tribes that for so long had waged relentless and terrible war.

About the author

Richard Flanagan was born in Tasmania in 1961. His novels *Death of a River Guide*, *The Sound of One Hand Clapping*, *Gould's Book of Fish*, *The Unknown Terrorist*, *Wanting*, *The Narrow Road to the Deep North* and *First Person* have received numerous honours and are published in 42 countries. He won the Man Booker Prize for *The Narrow Road to the Deep North* in 2014.

ISBN: 9780143790792
RRP: \$19.99
Pages: 272





Text type
Fiction

Themes

Death, Forgiveness, Grief, Loss, Memory, Perspective, Place, The search for connection, Time, Trauma

General capabilities

Critical and creative thinking, Ethical understanding, Intercultural understanding, Literacy

Cross-curriculum priorities

Asia and Australia's engagement with Asia

Unit of work

readingaustralia.com.au

Five Bells

Gail Jones

RELEASED FEBRUARY 2011



Winner of the Kibble Literary Award, Shortlisted for the Victorian Premier's Prize for Fiction, the Adelaide Festival Award for Literature, The ALS Gold Medal, the Barbara Jefferiss Prize and the Indies Award.

On a radiant day in Sydney, four people converge on Circular Quay, site of the iconic Opera House and the Sydney Harbour Bridge. Each of the four is haunted by memories of the past: Ellie is preoccupied by her experiences as a girl, James by a tragedy for which he feels responsible, Catherine by the loss of her beloved brother in Dublin and Pei Xing by her imprisonment during China's Cultural Revolution. Told over the course of a single Saturday, *Five Bells* describes vividly four lives which chime and resonate. By night-time, when Sydney is drenched in a rainstorm, each life has been transformed.

'A remarkably intricate creation: a highly sophisticated, thrillingly allusive web of implication in which a wide range of literary and cultural references are woven together, reinforcing and counterpointing each other in fascinating and often surprising ways.' *Griffith Review*

Extract

Circular Quay: she loved even the sound of it.

Before she saw the bowl of bright water, swelling like something sexual, before she saw the blue, unprecedented, and the clear sky sloping upwards, she knew from the lilted words it would be a circle like no other, key to a new world.

The train swung in a wide RC to emerge alongside sturdy buildings and there it was, the first glimpses through struts of ironwork, and those blurred partial visions were a quiet pleasure.

About the author

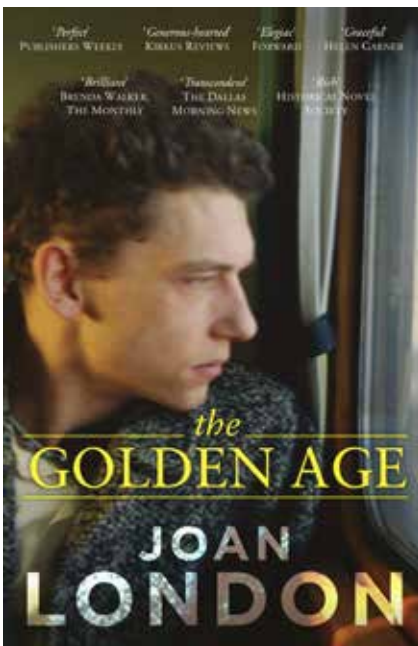
Gail Jones lives in Sydney and teaches at the University of Western Sydney. Her books have won numerous literary awards in Australia. She has been three times shortlisted for the Miles Franklin Award, her prizes include the WA Premier's Award for Fiction, the Nita B. Kibble Award, the Steele Rudd Award, the Age Book of the Year Award, the Adelaide Festival Award for Fiction and the ASAL Gold Medal. She has also been shortlisted for international awards, including the IMPAC and the Prix Femina.

ISBN: 9780143790815

RRP: \$19.99

Pages: 224





Text type
Fiction

Themes
Innocence, Maturity, Tragedy, Strength, Unity

General capabilities
Critical and creative thinking,
Ethical understanding,
Intercultural understanding,
Literacy

The Golden Age

Joan London

RELEASED AUGUST 2014



This is a story of resilience, the irrepressible, enduring nature of love, and the fragility of life, from one of Australia's most loved novelists.

It is 1954 and thirteen-year-old Frank Gold, refugee from wartime Hungary, is learning to walk again after contracting polio in Australia. At the Golden Age Children's Polio Convalescent Home in Perth, he sees Elsa, a fellow patient, and they form a forbidden, passionate bond. *The Golden Age* becomes the little world that reflects the larger one, where everything occurs: love and desire, music, death, and poetry. It is a place where children must learn they're alone, even within their families.

Subtle, moving and remarkably lovely, *The Golden Age* evokes a time past and a yearning for deep connection, from one of Australia's finest and most-loved novelists.

'Fearless, graceful and deeply benevolent.' Helen Garner

Extract

One afternoon during rest-time, the new boy, Frank Gold, left his bed, lowered himself into his wheelchair and glided down the corridor. There was nobody around. It was early December, already hot, and Frank, veteran by now of hospital life, knew the nurses would be upstairs in front of their fan. The door to Sister Penny's office was closed: she'd be catching forty winks on her couch.

His first goal, as usual, was to set eyes on Elsa. He peered into Girls through the crack between the hinges of the half-open door. Elsa's bed was behind the door. He liked to see her face asleep. Even if her head was turned away into the pillow, the sight of her thick gold-brown plait somehow gave him hope. But this afternoon her bed was empty.

About the author

Joan London's books have all been published internationally to critical acclaim. *The Golden Age*, Joan London's third novel, won the Prime Minister's Literary Award for fiction, the Kibble Literary Award, the Western Australian Premier's Award for fiction and the Queensland Literary Award for fiction. In 2015, Joan London was named a Western Australian State Living Treasure.

ISBN: 9780143790266

RRP: \$19.99

Pages: 256





2019 marks the 30th anniversary of the Berlin Wall demolition

Text type
Non-fiction

Themes
How literature plays witness to history, Identity, Interplay of authority and identity, Power, Good vs evil, Power of the written word, The dangers of nostalgia, Resistance, Overcoming adversity

General capabilities
Critical and creative thinking, Ethical understanding, Information and communication technology, Literacy, Personal and social capability

Units of work
readingaustralia.com.au

ISBN: 9780143792529
RRP: \$22.99
Pages: 304



Page 135

Stasiland Anna Funder

RELEASED DECEMBER 2003



Anna Funder's Samuel Johnson Prize-winning *Stasiland* is an Australian classic, the definitive account of tyranny and resistance in the former East Germany.

Truth can be stranger – and more heartbreaking and hilarious – than fiction.

In this now classic work, Funder tells extraordinary stories from the most perfected surveillance state of all time, the former East Germany. She meets Miriam, condemned as an enemy of the state at sixteen, and Frau Paul, for whom the Berlin Wall 'went through my heart'. She drinks with the legendary 'Mik Jegger' of the East, once declared by the authorities to 'no longer exist'. And she meets ex-Stasi – men who spied on their families and friends – still loyal to the deposed regime as they await the next revolution.

Stasiland is a brilliant, timeless portrait of a Kafkaesque world as gripping as any thriller. In a world of total surveillance, its celebration of human conscience and courage is as potent as ever.

'Anna Funder's *Stasiland* demonstrates that great, original reporting is still possible.' Claire Tomalin, *Guardian Books of the Year*

Extract

I am hungover and steer myself like a car through the crowds at Alexanderplatz station. Several times I miscalculate my width, scraping into a bin, and an advertising bollard. Tomorrow bruises will develop on my skin, like a picture from a negative.

A man turns from the wall, smiling and zipping up his fly. He is missing shoelaces and some teeth; his face and his shoes are as loose as each other. Another man in overalls, with a broom the size of a tennis-court sweeper, pushes disinfectant pellets along the platform. He makes arcs of green powder and cigarette butts and urine.

About the author

Anna Funder is the author of the acclaimed *All That I Am*, winner of the 2012 Miles Franklin Literary Award, among other awards. Her first book, the internationally bestselling *Stasiland*, won the 2004 Samuel Johnson Prize.



Catch-22

Joseph Heller

RELEASED NOVEMBER 1961



Now a major TV series on Stan, starring George Clooney and Hugh Laurie.

Text type
Fiction

Themes
Historical fiction, Satire, War and bureaucracy, Morality, Paradox and impossibility, Gallows humour

General capabilities
Critical and creative thinking, Ethical understanding, Literacy

Discover Joseph Heller's hilarious and tragic satire on military madness, and the tale of one man's efforts to survive it.

It's the closing months of World War II and Yossarian has never been closer to death. Stationed in an American bomber squadron off the coast of Italy, each flight mission introduces him to thousands of people determined to kill him.

But the enemy above is not Yossarian's problem – it is his own army intent on keeping him airborne, and the maddening 'Catch-22' that allows for no possibility of escape.

'The greatest satirical work in the English language.' *Observer*

Extract

It was love at first sight.

The first time Yossarian saw the chaplain he fell madly in love with him.

Yossarian was in the hospital with a pain in his liver that fell just short of being jaundice. The doctors were puzzled by the fact that it wasn't quite jaundice. If it became jaundice they could treat it. If it didn't become jaundice and went away they could discharge him. But this just short of being jaundice all the time confused them.

About the author

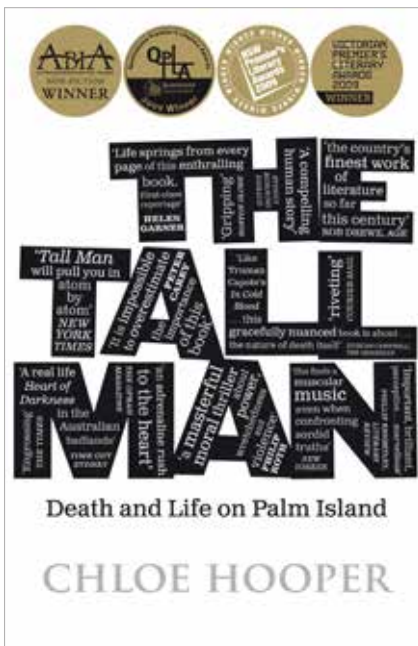
Joseph Heller was born in 1923 in Brooklyn, New York. He served as a bombardier in the Second World War and then attended New York University and Columbia University and then Oxford, the last on a Fulbright scholarship. He then taught for two years at Pennsylvania State University, before returning to New York, where he began a successful career in the advertising departments of *Time*, *Look* and *McCall's* magazines. It was during this time that he had the idea for *Catch-22*. Working on the novel in spare moments and evenings at home, it took him eight years to complete and was first published in 1961.

ISBN: 9781784875848

RRP: \$19.99

Pages: 528





The Tall Man Chloe Hooper

RELEASED SEPTEMBER 2009



The story of a death, a policeman, an island and a country.

The Tall Man is the story of Palm Island, the tropical paradise where one morning Cameron Doomadgee swore at a policeman and forty minutes later lay dead in a watch-house cell. It is the story of that policeman, the tall, enigmatic Christopher Hurley who chose to work in some of the toughest and wildest places in Australia, and of the struggle to bring him to trial. Above all, it is a story in luminous detail of two worlds clashing – and a haunting moral puzzle that no reader will forget.

Text type
Non-fiction

Themes
Faith, Grief, History, Humanity,
Oppression, Power, Privilege,
Racism, Revenge, Violence

General capabilities
Critical and creative thinking,
Ethical understanding,
Information and
communication technology,
Intercultural understanding,
Literacy, Personal and social
capability

Cross-curriculum priorities
Aboriginal and Torres Strait
Islander histories and cultures

Units of work
readingaustralia.com.au

'A haunting moral maze, described with such intimate observation and exquisite restraint that I kept pausing to take a breath.' *The Age*

'A compelling human story.' *Sydney Morning Herald*

Extract

Palm Island's grimy air terminal was decorated with a collection of the local fourth-graders' projects on safe and unsafe behaviour. One, a rough drawing of a bottle with a cross through it, read: 'Stop Drinking!' Another: 'I feel safe when I'm not being hunted.' The island's Aboriginal mayor collected me and the two lawyers I'd travelled with and drove us into town along the narrow road fringing the water. Rocks jutted from the shore. On a boulder someone had spray-painted in purple 'TALL MAN'.

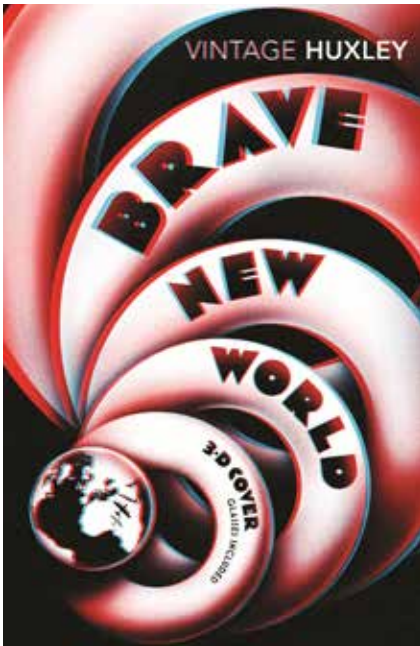
In the township there was a jetty, a beer canteen, a hospital, a long-broken wooden clock tower, and one store. Outside the store a child sat in a rubbish bin while another cooled him with a fire hose. In the circle of shade under a tree, more children played a gambling game: some form of two-up, with bottle lids or seed pods landing in the dirt.

About the author

Chloe Hooper's *The Tall Man: Death and Life on Palm Island* (2008) won the Victorian, New South Wales, West Australian and Queensland Premier's Literary Awards, as well as the John Button Prize for Political Writing, and a Ned Kelly Award for crime writing.

ISBN: 9780143010661
RRP: \$24.99
Pages: 288





Brave New World

Aldous Huxley

RELEASED 1932

Extra-special futuristic 3D edition with introductions by Margaret Atwood and David Bradshaw. Each book comes with 3D glasses.

Far in the future, the World Controllers have created the ideal society. Through clever use of genetic engineering, brainwashing and recreational sex and drugs all its members are happy consumers. Bernard Marx seems alone harbouring an ill-defined longing to break free. A visit to one of the few remaining Savage Reservations where the old, imperfect life still continues, may be the cure for his distress...

Huxley's ingenious fantasy of the future sheds a blazing light on the present and is considered to be his most enduring masterpiece.

'One of the most important books to have been published since the war.' *Daily Telegraph*

Extract

A squat grey building of only thirty-four storeys. Over the main entrance the words, Central London Hatchery and Conditioning Centre, and, in a shield, the World State's motto, Community, Identity, Stability.

The enormous room on the ground floor faced towards the north. Cold for all the summer beyond the panes, for all the tropical heat of the room itself, a harsh thin light glared through the windows, hungrily seeking some draped lay figure, some pallid shape of academic goose-flesh, but finding only the glass and nickel and bleakly shining porcelain of a laboratory. Wintriness responded to wintriness.

About the author

Aldous Huxley was born on 26 July 1894 near Godalming, Surrey. He began writing poetry and short stories in his early 20s, but it was his first novel, *Crome Yellow* (1921), which established his literary reputation. The great novels of ideas, including his most famous work *Brave New World* and the pacifist novel *Eyeless in Gaza* were accompanied by a series of wise and brilliant essays, collected in volume form.

Text type
Fiction

Themes
Commodification, Dystopia, Freedom, Humanity and society, Happiness, Consumerism and Science

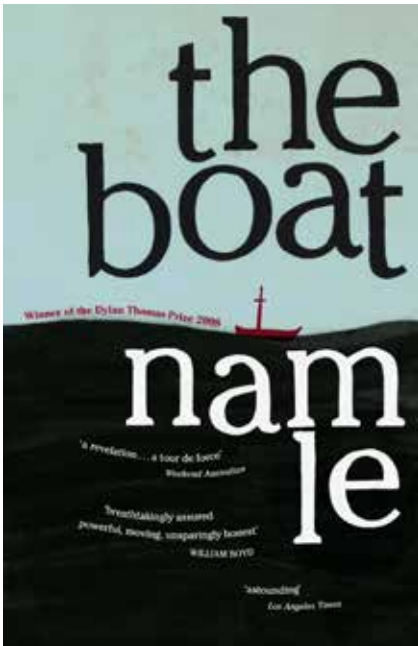
General capabilities
Critical and creative thinking, Literacy

ISBN: 9781784870140

RRP: \$14.99

Pages: 288





The Boat

Nam Le

RELEASED MARCH 2009



In 1979, Nam Le's family left Vietnam for Australia, an experience that inspires the first and last stories in *The Boat*. In between, however, Le's imagination lays claim to the world.

A stunningly inventive, deeply moving fiction debut: stories that take us from the slums of Colombia to the streets of Tehran; from New York City to Iowa City; from a tiny fishing village in Australia to a foundering vessel in the South China Sea, in a masterful display of literary virtuosity and feeling.

Text type

Fiction, short stories

Themes

Asylum seekers, Coming of age, Cultural awareness, Memory, Reconciliation, Refugees, Resilience, Sacrifice, The impact of the past upon the present

General capabilities

Critical and creative thinking, Intercultural understanding, Literacy

Cross-curriculum priorities

Asia and Australia's engagement with Asia

Units of work

readingaustralia.com.au

What seems at first a satire on turning one's life into literary commerce becomes a transcendent exploration of homeland, and the ties between father and son. With graceful symmetry, the final, title story returns to Vietnam, to a fishing trawler crowded with refugees where a young woman's bond with a mother and her small son forces both women to a shattering decision.

'The runaway literary success of 2008.' *Weekend Australian*

'These are stories of leaping power and the most breath-taking grace and intimacy.' *Helen Garner*

Extract

My father arrived on a rainy morning. I was dreaming about a poem, the dull *thluck thluck* of a typewriter's keys punching out the letters. It was a good poem – perhaps the best I'd ever written. When I woke up, he was standing outside my bedroom door, smiling ambiguously. He wore black trousers and a wet, wrinkled parachute jacket that looked like it had just been pulled out of a washing machine. Framed by the bedroom doorway, he appeared even smaller, gaunter, than I remembered. Still groggy with dream, I lifted my face toward the alarm clock.

About the author

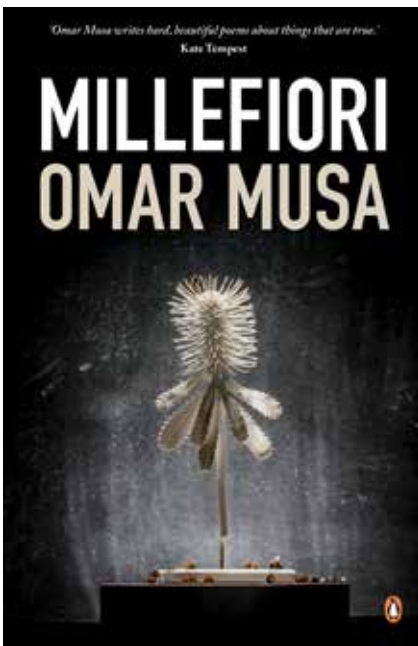
Nam Le's first book, *The Boat*, received – among others – the Australian Prime Minister's Literary Award, the Melbourne Prize, the Dylan Thomas Prize, the Anisfield-Wolf Book Award and the PEN/Malamud Award. It was selected as a *New York Times* Notable Book and Editor's Choice, the best debut of 2008 by the *Australian Book Review* and *New York Magazine*, and was a book of the year by numerous sources around the world.

ISBN: 9780143009610

RRP: \$22.99

Pages: 336





Text type
Fiction

Themes
Poetry, History and memory,
Colonialism

General capabilities
Critical and creative thinking,
Ethical understanding,
Intercultural understanding,
Literacy

Millefiori Omar Musa

RELEASED NOVEMBER 2017



Fierce, lyrical and intimate, Omar Musa's poetry sets words aflame.

A collection of love poems and fierce raps, *Millefiori* is Omar Musa's third book of poetry. Both dream-like and gritty, it also includes gorgeous illustrations and draft poems from Musa's notebook. Heartbreak, cocaine, colonial violence, memory and cave paintings: this is a world full of unbearable beauty and brutality.

'Omar Musa writes hard, beautiful poems about things that are true.' Kate Tempest

'Fierce, lyrical and intimate, Omar Musa's poetry sets words aflame.' Helen Macdonald, *H is for Hawk*

'Each poem in Musa's *Millefiori* beats with a large heart.'
Gregory Pardlo, Pulitzer Prize-winning poet

Extract

where will you be when we wander the moonscaped
earth?
when all the rivers are turned elegy?
when we lie on the salt pans in heat-haze stupor?
when we bite our lips & fingernails, chewing & tearing in
hunger?

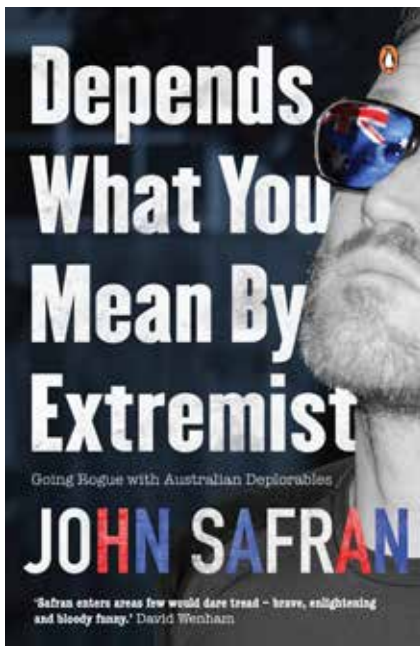
will you have grown wings like the sharp-toothed pegasus,
circling in the sky where we stare to dream?

About the author

Omar Musa is a Malaysian-Australian author, rapper and poet. He is the former winner of the Australian Poetry Slam and the Indian Ocean Poetry Slam. He has released four hip hop records, three poetry books, appeared on ABC's *Q&A* and received a standing ovation at TEDx Sydney at the Opera House. His debut novel *Here Come the Dogs* was published by Penguin Australia in 2014 and was longlisted for the International Dublin Literary Award and Miles Franklin Award. Musa was named one of the SMH's Young Novelists of the Year in 2015.

ISBN: 9780646969244
RRP: \$24.99
Pages: 112





Text type
Non-fiction

Themes
Politics, Extremism,
Radicalisation, Activism,
Nationalism

General capabilities
Critical and creative thinking,
Ethical understanding,
Intercultural understanding,
Literacy

Cross-curriculum priorities
Asia and Australia's
engagement with Asia

Depends What You Mean by Extremist

John Safran

RELEASED MAY 2017



Expecting skinheads, John Safran rocked up to a far-right rally in Melbourne.

No one turns up where they're not wanted quite like John Safran. In this hilarious and disorienting adventure he gets among our diverse community of white nationalists, ISIS supporters, anarchists and more, digging away at the contradictions that many would prefer be left unexamined.

Who is this black puppet-master among the white nationalists? And this Muslim fundamentalist who geeks out on Monty Python? Is there a secret radicalisation network operating in John's own Jewish suburb? And ultimately – is hanging with all these radicals washing off on John himself?

Populated by an extraordinary cast of 'ordinary' Australians, *Depends What You Mean by Extremist* is a startling, confronting portrait of contemporary Australia. We all think we know what's going on in our own country, but this larger-than-life, timely, and alarmingly insightful true story will make you think again...

'Totes recommend John Safran's latest. Deplorable in the best sense' Louis Theroux

Extract

I ask him what he's protesting about.

"Don't want to come over here in our country and respect the way we live? I reckon they should respect it. They expect us to go over there and respect them and the way they live. We respect their turf over there. They can respect ours."

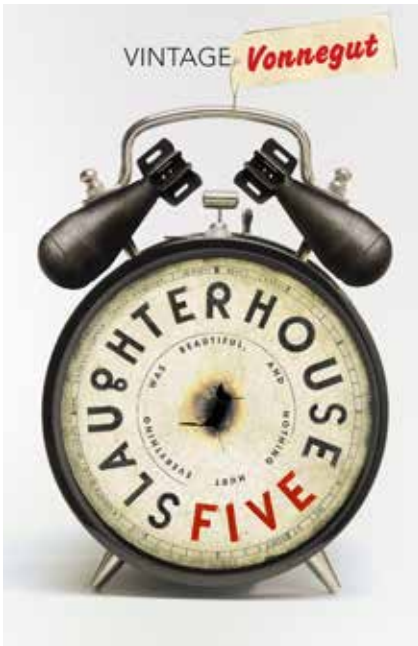
I'm confused as to who he's talking about. "The Muslims or the protesters?" I ask.

About the author

John Safran is an award-winning documentary-maker of provocative and hilarious takes on race, the media, religion and other issues. John first hit TV screens in 1997 on *Race Around the World* (ABC-TV). John also co-hosted *Sunday Night Safran*, a radio talk show on Triple J with cranky but beloved Catholic priest, Father Bob Maguire.

ISBN: 9780143789895
RRP: \$22.99
Pages: 304





Text type
Non-fiction

Themes
Fate and free will, Morality and ethics, Freedom, Masculinity, War, Time and suffering

General capabilities
Critical and creative thinking, Ethical understanding, Intercultural understanding, Literacy

Cross-curriculum priorities
Sustainability

Slaughterhouse 5 Kurt Vonnegut

RELEASED MARCH 1969

Kurt Vonnegut's masterpiece, one of the very best anti-war novels ever written, a book both beloved and banned.

Prisoner of war, optometrist, time-traveller – these are the life roles of Billy Pilgrim, hero of this miraculously moving, bitter and funny story of innocence faced with apocalypse. *Slaughterhouse 5* is one of the world's great anti-war books. Centring on the infamous fire-bombing of Dresden in the Second World War, Billy Pilgrim's odyssey through time reflects the journey of our own fractured lives as we search for meaning in what we are afraid to know.

'The great, urgent, passionate American writer of our century, who offers us a model of the kind of compassionate thinking that might yet save us from ourselves.' George Saunders

'An extraordinary success. A book to read and reread. He is a true artist.' *New York Times Book Review*

Extract

Listen: Billy Pilgrim has come unstuck in time.

Billy has gone to sleep a senile widower and awakened on his wedding day. He has walked through a door in 1955 and come out another one in 1941. He has gone back through that door to find himself in 1963. He has seen his birth and death many times, he says, and pays random visits to all the events in between.

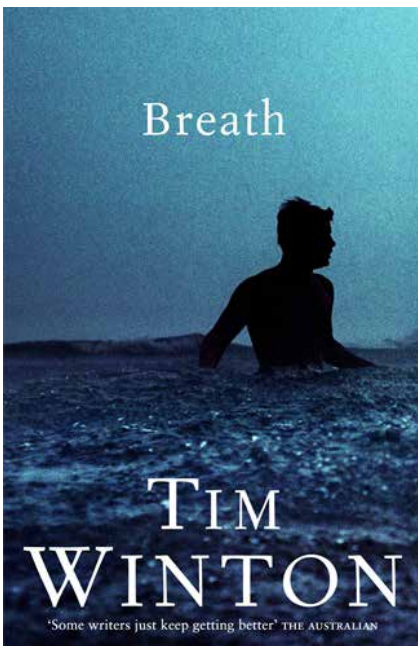
He says.

About the author

Kurt Vonnegut was born in Indianapolis in 1922 and studied biochemistry at Cornell University. An army intelligence scout during the Second World War, he was captured by the Germans and witnessed the destruction of Dresden by Allied bombers, an experience which inspired his classic novel *Slaughterhouse 5*. After the war he worked as a police reporter, an advertising copywriter and a public relations man for General Electric.

ISBN: 9780099800200
RRP: \$14.99
Pages: 192w





Text type
Fiction

Themes
Masculinity, Fear, Coming of age, Identity and belonging, Memory

General capabilities
Critical and creative thinking, Literacy, Personal and social capability

CONTAINS ADULT THEMES

ISBN: 9780143009580
RRP: \$22.99
Pages: 288



Page 143

Breath Tim Winton

RELEASED APRIL 2009



Tim Winton's *Breath*, winner of the Miles Franklin Literary Award, is a story about the wildness of youth and learning to live with its passing.

When paramedic Bruce Pike is called out to deal with another teenage adventure gone wrong, he knows better than his colleague, better than the kid's parents, what happened and how. Thirty years before, that dead boy could have been him.

A relentlessly gripping and deeply moving novel about the damage you do to yourself when you're young and think you're immortal.

'While Breath deals with primal, mythic conflicts – the clash of wilderness and civilization, self and society, youth and age – it does not strain for epic effect.' *Times Literary Supplement*

Extract

We come sweeping up the tree-lined boulevard with siren and lights and when the GPS urges us to make the next left we take it so fast that all the gear slams and sways inside the vehicle. I don't say a thing. Down the dark suburban street I can see the house lit like a cruise ship.

Got it, she says before I can point it out.

Feel free to slow down.

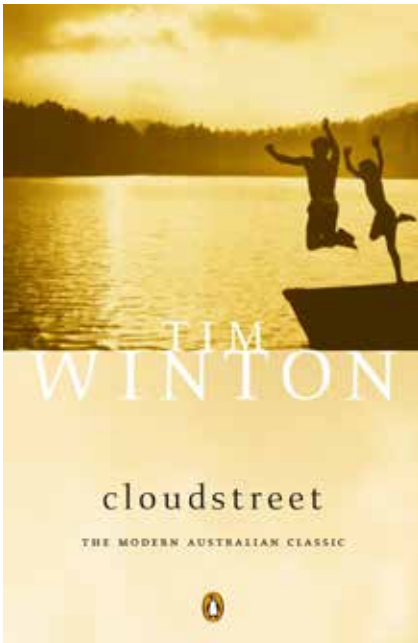
Making you nervous, Bruce?

Something like that, I murmur.

But the face is I feel brilliant. This is when I feel good, when the nerve-ends are singing, the gut tight with anticipation. It's been a long, slow shift and there's never any love lost between Jodie and me.

About the author

Tim Winton has published twenty-nine books for adults and children, and his work has been translated into twenty-eight languages.



Text type
Fiction

Themes
Australian identity, Belonging, Community, Faith, Family, Fate, Fear, Love, Nostalgia, Spirituality

General capabilities
Critical and creative thinking, Ethical understanding, Intercultural understanding, Literacy, Personal and social

Unit of work
readingaustralia.com.au

Discussion points
penguin.com.au/book-clubs

Cloudstreet

Tim Winton

RELEASED JANUARY 1998



Winner of the Miles Franklin Award and recognised as one of the greatest works of Australian literature.

After two separate catastrophes, two very different families leave the country for the bright lights of Perth. The Lambs are industrious, united and – until God seems to turn his back on their boy Fish – religious. The Pickleses are gamblers, boozers, fractious, and unlikely landlords.

Chance, hardship and the war force them to swallow their dignity and share a great, breathing, shuddering joint called Cloudstreet. Over the next twenty years they struggle and strive, laugh and curse, come apart and pull together under the same roof, and try as they can to make their lives.

'This is that rare book, a novel of both heart and intellect. It pulses with a sense of wonder and shines with the clear light of truth.' Robert Drewe

'Masterly . . . Ultimately a love letter to Australia, Cloudstreet is a compulsory and compulsive read. Read it and weep.' *Herald Sun*

Extract

Will you look at us by the river! The whole restless mob on spread blankets in the dreamy briny sunshine skylarking and chacking about for one day, one clear, clean, sweet day in a good world in the midst of our living. Yachts run before an unfelt gust with bagnecked pelicans riding about them, the city their twitching backdrop, all blocks and points of mirror light down to the water's edge.

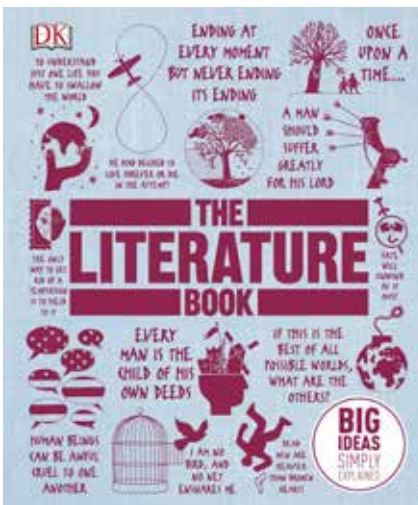
Twenty years, they all say, sprawling and drinking. There's ginger bee, staggerjuice and hot flasks of tea. There's pasties, a ham, chickenlegs and a basket of oranges, potato salad and dried figs. There are things spilling from jars and bags.

About the author

Tim Winton has published twenty-nine books for adults and children, and his work has been translated into twenty-eight languages.

ISBN: 9780140273984
RRP: \$24.99
Pages: 448





The Literature Book

DK

RELEASED MARCH 2016

From Fitzgerald's *The Great Gatsby* to Shelley's *Frankenstein*, *The Literature Book* documents the greatest literature ever written.

A must have for every English department

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28 He was best - the root, the end of battle	
29 What is good among one people is an abomination with others	
29 Even wallpaper has a better meaning than human beings	
29 I think there's just one kind of folk, folks	
29 Nothing is so good (if one has the courage to proclaim that all is lost and we must begin anew)	
29 He had decided to live forever or die in the attempt	
29 I chafed to see myself, to see the darkness	
29 There's got to be something wrong with us. To do what we did	
29 Ending an every moment but never ending its ending	
29 Further reading	

BIG BROTHER IS WATCHING

252 NINETEEN EIGHTY-FOUR

IN CONTEXT

FOCUS

Dystopia

BEFORE

1916 English humanist Sir Thomas More's *Utopia* first imagines an ideal society, and its opposite – a dystopia.

1924 Russian writer Yevgeny Zamyatin's *We* describes the One State, where people live in the collective good.

1932 In English writer Aldous Huxley's *Brave New World* individuality is suppressed.

AFTER

1953 novel set in 1984

1962 Bang depicted

1985 by Cl Atwood's *1984*

He who controls the past controls the future. He who controls the present controls the past.

Nineteen Eighty-Four

the threat posed by the destructive forces of the atomic bomb and the emergence of chaotic climate change have been revisited.

See also: *Utopia* 16-17 • *Utopia's* *Utopia* 18 • *Brave New World* 243 • *Lord of the Flies* 287 • *A Clockwork Orange* 289 • *The Death of Dostoevsky* 290 • *The Handmaid's Tale* 295

War in 1984, when pro-Stalin communists turned on those who were supposed to be their allies. Orwell had already painted a bleak vision of such tyranny in his novella *Animal Farm* (1949). He also had a template of society for his new work: the world created by Russian writer Yevgeny Zamyatin's *We* (1924), in which individual freedom is largely absent. *Nineteen Eighty-Four* depicts a totalitarian society manipulating its citizens through propaganda, flipping truths into lies for the sake of maintaining political power. This dystopian vision is as dark as any other in the history of literature.

The world Smith inhabits is ruled by an elite. The masses ('the proles') who make up 85 per cent of the population, are controlled by four pseudototalitarian ministries: the Ministry of Peace, which oversees war; the Ministry of Love, which deals with policing; the Ministry of Plenty, which controls the economy, including rationing for the population; and the Ministry of Truth, or Ministry, which deals with news and the education of the masses, issuing propaganda to control the thoughts of the people. One of the chief conflicts of the novel is the battle between the Party and the proles.

dictates the truth of the past as well as the present. History is revised and rewritten to fit the changing dictates of the state. And Winston Smith himself works in the Ministry of Truth, editing historical records, and burning the original documentation by putting it into a 'memory hole'. History as the reader understands it, has stopped. 'Nothing exists except an endless present in which the Party is always right.'

The all-seeing government

A network of telescopes, cameras, and secret microphones catches

84 FIRST FOLIO

IN CONTEXT

FOCUS

The Bard

BEFORE

1560 Published in an English translation, the *Quinto* Bible is one of the major reference sources used by Shakespeare.

1565 The Roman poet Ovid's *Metamorphoses*, translated by Arthur Golding, is published and is a major literary source for Shakespeare.

1566 Works, by English writer Ben Jonson, as the first published collection of a poet's works.

AFTER

1709 Jonson's *Complete Works* by Ben Jonson, as the first published collection of a poet's works.

Some are born great, some achieve greatness, and some have greatness thrust upon 'em.

Twelfth Night

less in his ability to capture words what it feels like to be human. His mastery of language allowed him to capture complex

See also: *Utopia* 16-17 • *Brave New World* 243 • *The Handmaid's Tale* 295 • *1984* 295 • *Utopia* 18 • *Brave New World* 243 • *Lord of the Flies* 287 • *A Clockwork Orange* 289 • *The Death of Dostoevsky* 290 • *The Handmaid's Tale* 295

Shakespeare was born in the market town of Stratford-upon-Avon, in the house on Holy Trinity Street, about 1564, the first year of his father's marriage to Anne Hathaway.

little wonder then that the works of Shakespeare remain accessible to a broad audience; Shakespeare's imaginative tales have the capacity to delight schoolchildren as well as veteran stagegoers.

A writer for all worlds

Shakespeare's genius lies in his talent for holding a mirror up to nature and reflecting his audience

RENAISSANCE TO ENLIGHTENMENT 1500-1800

Initially, Shakespeare's comedies, which one might expect to be light and frivolous in tone, can sometimes prove dark and dangerous. In *As You Like It*, for example, the character of Touchstone is usually dismissed as a clown, but he is actually a satirical figure who, through his wit and wordplay, exposes the hypocrisy and corruption of the court. In *Twelfth Night*, the character of Malvolio is a satirical figure who, through his wit and wordplay, exposes the hypocrisy and corruption of the court. In *Twelfth Night*, the character of Malvolio is a satirical figure who, through his wit and wordplay, exposes the hypocrisy and corruption of the court.

Relationships tested

While Shakespeare's comedies show many similarities, they also differ markedly from one another. They almost all end with the prospect of marriage, which helps to unite individuals and communities simultaneously; it also brings a celebratory, festive quality to the play's close and distances the memory of any misadventures that have thwarted the marriage. In *Twelfth Night*, the character of Malvolio is a satirical figure who, through his wit and wordplay, exposes the hypocrisy and corruption of the court.

The Globe theatre

The Globe theatre, as named by Shakespeare, opened in 1599 on the north bank of the River Thames, but by 1644 it had been demolished. A reconstructed model of the theatre, based on the evidence of Shakespeare's plays, shows a circular building with a raised platform for the actors and a central area for the audience. The theatre was built of wood and was open to the sky. The stage was a raised platform that projected into the central area. The audience sat on the ground or on benches that surrounded the stage. The theatre was built on the site of an old Roman theatre, but it was a new building. The theatre was built by the actor-manager, James Burbage, and it was the first permanent theatre in England. The theatre was built on the site of an old Roman theatre, but it was a new building. The theatre was built by the actor-manager, James Burbage, and it was the first permanent theatre in England.

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