

2026

Picture Books, Junior,  
Middle & Young Adult Fiction



# Stories You'll Want to Share

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**Media, Rights & Author Visits:** [admin@wombathriza.com.au](mailto:admin@wombathriza.com.au)

**Bookstores:** [adscs@alliancedist.com.au](mailto:adscs@alliancedist.com.au)

Illustration by Natasha Curtin from THE COUNTING SHEEP

## BLUE: DRAGON OF THE SEA

Aleesah Darlison & Tamlyn Teow

Join Blue and his fellow dragons as they explore the sea!

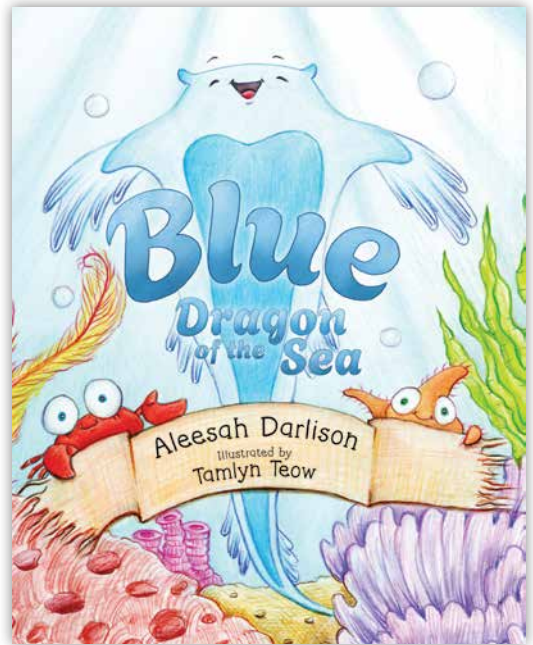
Meet Blue, a Dragon of the Sea!

He's also known as a nudibranch or sea slug.

Blue's fleet roam the ocean, gliding on the currents, and dancing their way through dangerous adventures.

Join Blue and his fellow dragons as they explore the sea!

9781761112706 | WOMBAT BOOKS  
**FEB 2026** | Picture Book | Hardback  
 32pp | 345 words | 4 to 7 years  
 AU \$26.99 | NZ \$27.99



## THE PICTURE-PERFECT PRESENT

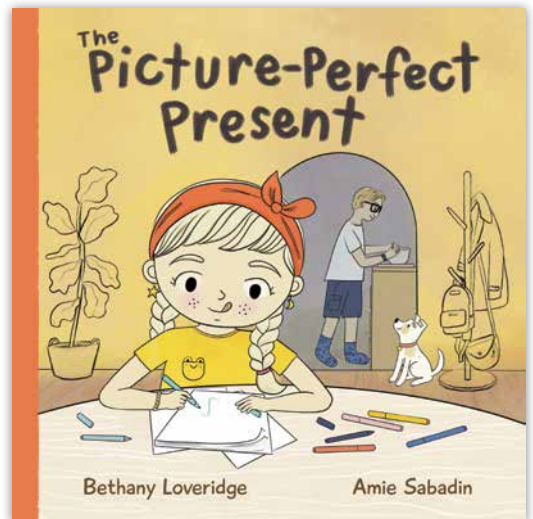
Bethany Loveridge & Amie Sabadin

Can Meg come up with the perfect present for Dad before time runs out?

With one day to find a special gift for her dad, Meg thinks of ideas by drawing Dad's favourite things. Would he like a fully automatic coffee machine, an indoor ice-skating rink, or a pet hippo? By the end of the day, Meg is out of time, and out of ideas. What will she do?

*The Picture-Perfect Present* is a book for creative children who love drawing, using their imagination, and their dads!

9781761113215 | WOMBAT BOOKS  
**AUG 2026** | Picture Book | Hardback  
 32pp | 480 words | 3 to 6 years  
 AU \$24.99 | NZ \$26.99



## THE COUNTING SHEEP

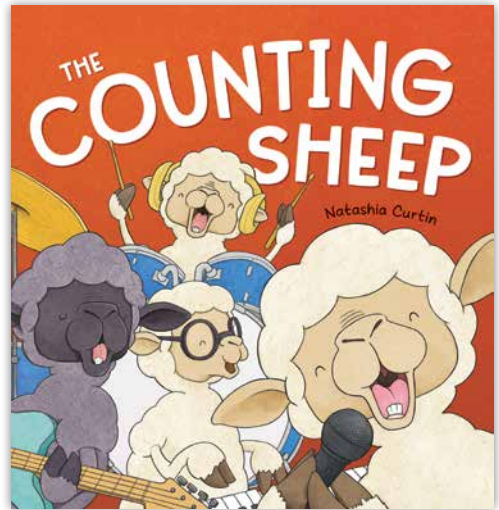
Natasha Curtin

It's the greatest baaaand  
in all the laaaand,  
The Counting Sheep!

Curly, Barney, Betty and Bo are four sheep who love music. Every Friday night, they meet up to play in their band until the sun comes up.

They take their band, The Counting Sheep, to the city to perform, but by the time they've finished playing, everyone in the audience is sound asleep! The same thing happens every night, and soon the bad reviews are rolling in.

Their animal friends try to help, but nothing seems to work. Can anything help them realise their dream of becoming the greatest baaaand in the laaaand?



9781761113154 | WOMBAT BOOKS

**MAR 2026** | Picture Book | Hardback

32pp | 431 words | 3 to 6 years

AU \$24.99 | NZ \$24.99

## MEENA'S MOVING DAY

Brenton Cullen & Jennifer Horn

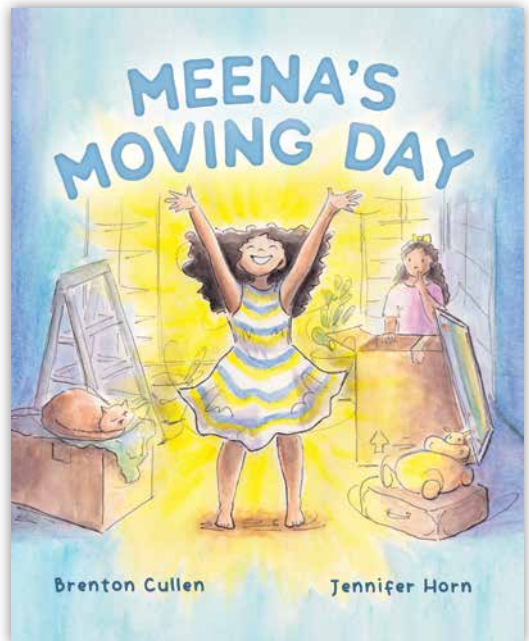
Meena's excited for her own room!  
But does being separated mean the  
sisters won't see each other?

Meena and Lina share a room. They whisper at night and swap secrets and laughs.

But sometimes ... they argue.

When Dad cleans out the sunroom, Meena asks, 'Can it be mine?' As they prepare the room for her, Lina asks, 'But what about me?'

Will Meena be happy in her big room, away from her little sister?



9781761113574 | WOMBAT BOOKS

**OCT 2026** | Picture Book | Hardback

32pp | 373 words | 4 to 7 years

AU \$24.99 | NZ \$27.99

## CONNECTED

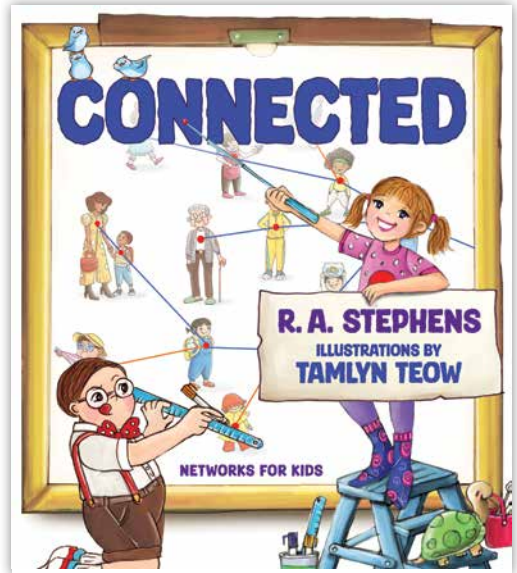
R. A. Stephens & Tamlyn Teow

Are we all connected?  
A mathematical network can demonstrate we are!

*Connected* introduces children to the mathematical concepts of networks, nodes and edges through the eyes of the children.

Chloe is represented as a node, as are her friends and family, and their friends and family. They are all connected by lines called edges. Just how far will the network spread?

9781761113178 | WOMBAT BOOKS  
**APR 2026** | Picture Book | Hardback  
32pp | 379 words | 5 to 8 years  
AU \$24.99 | NZ \$27.99



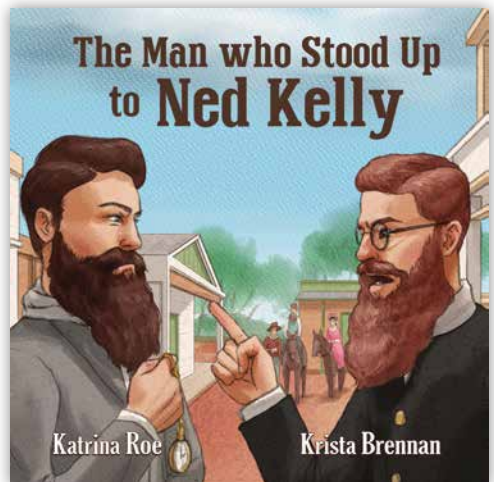
## THE MAN WHO STOOD UP TO NED KELLY

Katrina Roe & Krista Brennan

We all know about Ned Kelly,  
but what about the brave man  
who stood up to him?

In 1879, Australia's most notorious bushranger, Ned Kelly, and his gang took over the town of Jerilderie for three days. At this time, Ned was a dangerous outlaw who had already killed three police officers. In Jerilderie, he and his gang locked up the police, robbed the bank, took more than thirty people hostage and stole thousands of pounds. But one man, John Gribble, demanded that Ned return precious items he'd stolen.

You know about Ned Kelly, now meet the brave man who stood up to him.



9781761112423 | WOMBAT BOOKS  
**JUL 2026** | Picture Book | Hardback  
32pp | 652 words | 4 to 10 years  
AU \$27.99 | NZ \$29.99

## NEW RELEASES

MORE PICTURE BOOKS  
SEE PAGE 16

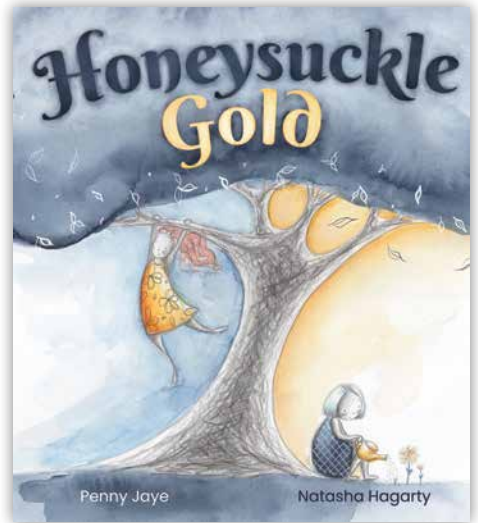
### HONEYSUCKLE GOLD

Penny Jaye & Natasha Hagarty

*She goes to school.  
Rebuilds her dreams,  
And makes new plans...*

When a girl wants a dress in honeysuckle gold for her birthday party, she finds out that a girl overseas has been trafficked to pick cotton to make her dress, so she campaigns for change.

*Honeysuckle Gold* is the story of two young girls whose lives are connected by the global cotton supply chain. When one of the girls is trafficked into forced labour, both girls long for a better world. They need to find the courage to not only believe change can happen but be part of making that change.



9781761112386 | WOMBAT BOOKS

SEP 2026 | Picture Book | Hardback

32pp | 350 words | 4 to 7 years

AU \$27.99 | NZ \$29.99

## NEW RELEASES

MORE JUNIOR FICTION  
SEE PAGE 25

### THE GREAT ORANGE BAKE-OFF

Coral Vass & Heidi Cooper Smith

*Is working with Eve really so bad?  
It's OPERATION TEAMWORK!*

As Amanda and her friends prepare for the school Bake-Off, their plans are derailed when Amanda is separated and paired up with Eve instead.

The Dolphin Squad concoct a plan to get back on the same team, but is working with Eve really so bad?

Time to bake some delicious treats!

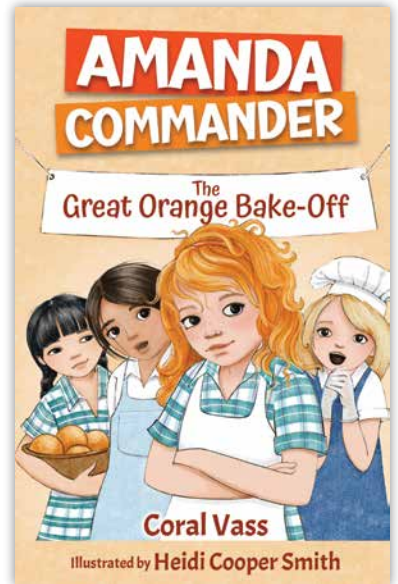
It's OPERATION TEAMWORK!

9781761112195 | WOMBAT BOOKS

FEB 2026 | Junior Fiction | Paperback

76pp | 5,500 words | 6 to 8 years

AU \$12.99 | NZ \$14.99



## POPPY & PIPSQUEAK: THE MIGHTY PIPSQUEAK

Deborah Kelly & Amie Sabadin

Can little Pipsqueak prove she is a mighty farm dog?

When Jessie-dog has a puppy much smaller than the others, Dad says it probably won't survive the night. Even if it does, there is no place for weak dogs on the farm.

Poppy is determined to prove that the little pup can do everything the other pups can do. After all, she was born small too.

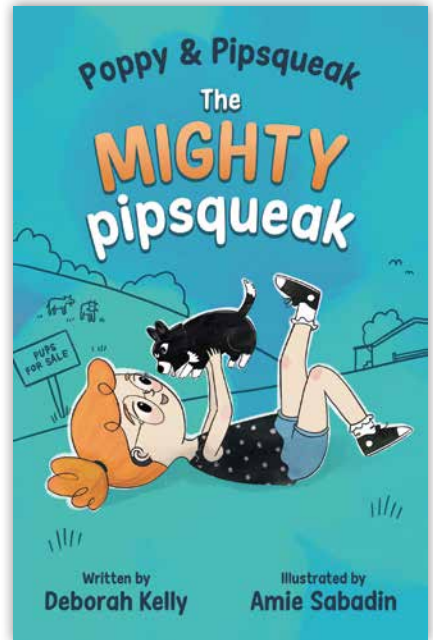
But what if she fails? And what if Dad decides Pipsqueak needs another home, far away from Poppy?

9781761112768 | WOMBAT BOOKS

**MAR 2026** | Early Reader | Paperback

72pp | 4,983 words | 6 to 9 years

AU \$12.99 | NZ \$14.99



## POPPY & PIPSQUEAK: AN ACCIDENTAL ROOSTER

Deborah Kelly & Amie Sabadin

How can Poppy keep Mr Penny quiet?

When Poppy's mum gets some hens for her new chicken coop, one turns out to be ... a rooster. Dad says that Mr Penny is the rowdiest rooster he has ever known. He never stops crowing, ever!

Poppy asks her friends for help. Nothing works.

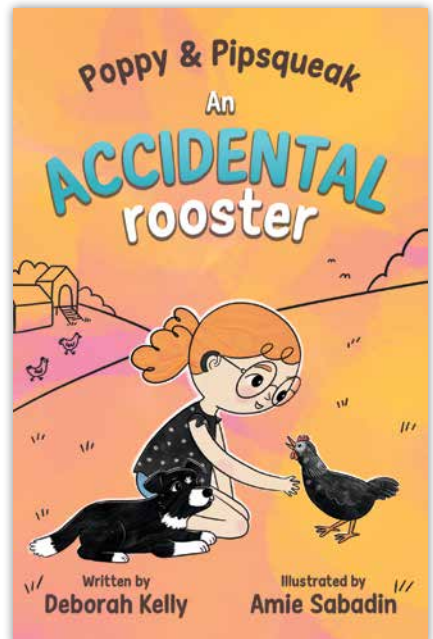
Poppy is worried about what will happen if they return Mr Penny to the hatchery, but Poppy's mum and dad need some sleep! What can she do?

9781761113031 | WOMBAT BOOKS

**SEP 2026** | Early Reader | Paperback

78pp | 5,157 words | 6 to 9 years

AU \$12.99 | NZ \$14.99



## JOSIE MACK AND THE MEGA DIVISION

Bethany Loveridge & Jade Goodwin

The FUN needs help! Join Josie and Ursula on their eco-warrior adventures!

One night, a wombat knocks at Josie's window. Josie thinks her lifelong wish for a pet has come true! But Ursula the wombat is on an important mission for the Fellowship of Underground Nocturnals (the FUN) The FUN needs human help to solve their wildlife woes. They want Josie and Ursula to join the FUN's mysterious MEGA Division, which means they'll receive a mega-helpful power. Can Josie and Ursula prove they're the team the FUN is looking for? Or will joining the MEGA Division be a mega mistake?

9781761112829 | WOMBAT BOOKS

**JUN 2026** | Junior Fiction | Paperback

112pp | 10,621 words | 7 to 12 years

AU \$14.99 | NZ \$14.99



## AIDAN VERSUS THE OCEAN

Dannika Patterson & Heidi Cooper Smith

Sudden storms, circling sharks, venomous snakes and fishing fails, this fast-paced survival adventure is a page-turner for middle-grade readers.

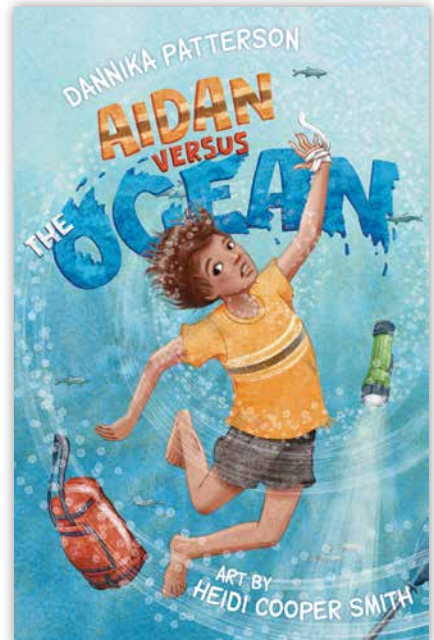
All Aidan thought he'd have to survive during the summer school holidays was yet another game of Fortnite with his mates. But his plans are suddenly swept out to sea after one teeny-tiny bad decision leads to a whole bunch more. Now he's forced to play a real-life game of survival off the wild West Australian coast. With his Border Collie Barney by his side, will Aidan's courage, humour and grit, along with inspiration from a few celebrities, be enough to see him safely home?

9781761113192 | WOMBAT BOOKS

**JUL 2026** | Wombat Shorts | Paperback | 136pp

13,932 words | Reading age 8+ | Interest age 10+

AU \$16.99 | NZ \$17.99



## BRING IT BACK

Deborah Kelly

Like a basketball game that's heading south, can he bring it back?

It's the last term of primary school and Liam is bored with the same faces, places and lunches—even basketball.

When a new student arrives, things become much more interesting. Soon Liam is taking risks and bending the rules, just like Clint. Liam finds himself in serious trouble when he realises how far he's drifted from the things and the people he loves.

But just like a game of basketball that's heading south, can he bring it back?

9781761113635 | WOMBAT BOOKS

**MAY 2026** | Wombat Shorts | Paperback | 100pp  
10,049 words | Reading age 8+ | Interest age 9+  
AU \$14.99 | NZ \$16.99



## DUGONGS OF THE SKY

Emily Larkin

An exciting seafaring adventure about courage and friendship.

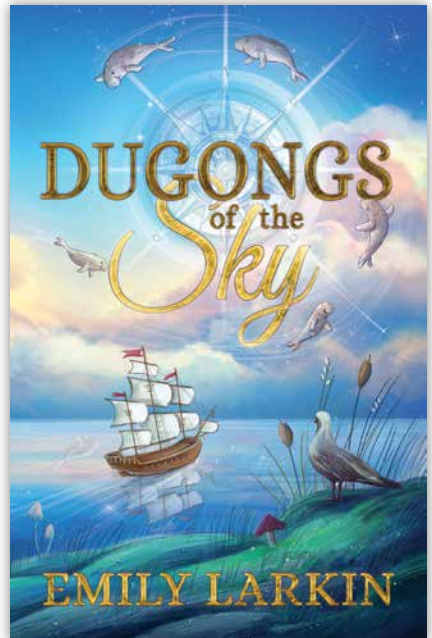
The sky dugongs are in danger, but Captain Scree Barnacle is determined to save them.

Her voyage to overturn an ancient hunting law means sailing the perilous Starstruck Straits—and dealing with sabotage. But who is threatening Scree's mission, and are others in danger too?

Can the Wildkin captain and Patch, her plucky ship's mate, untangle a magical plot, help the lost creatures find their way home, and save the animals?

9781761113277 | WOMBAT BOOKS

**APR 2026** | Middle Fiction | Paperback  
208pp | 42,263 words | 10 to 14 years  
AU \$17.99 | NZ \$19.99



## THE GHOST HORSE OF SNOWY RIVER

Stef Gemmill

*I can feel what Faith feels as she stretches out into a gallop. Me. The wind in my face. The perfect horse. As hard as it will be, my body aches to ride.*

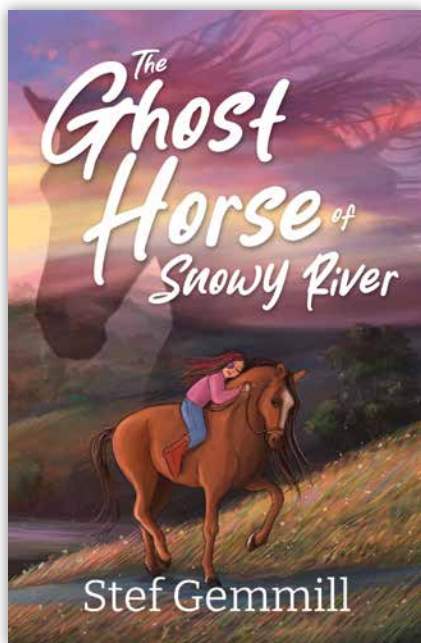
A year has passed since 12-year-old Georgie Stone had a serious horse-riding accident. Now that she's back at the cattle station, Georgie tries to overcome her fear of riding and prepare for the two-week cattle muster. But she's worried about the herd of wild brumbies led by the Ghost Horse, being hunted by a local horsewhipper, Goldburn. As the Ghost Horse begins to follow Georgie on the muster, the stallion is in extreme danger. Could the grey stallion be her old horse, Magic? How can she prove it before Goldburn captures him?

9781761113543 | WOMBAT BOOKS

**JUN 2026** | Middle Fiction | Paperback

236pp | 47,689 words | 9 to 12 years

AU \$18.99 | NZ \$19.99



## THE NARDI PUZZLE

Gabriella Page

**An escape room to crack, an extraordinary prize ... but one wrong move and it's game over.**

When 12-year-old Sebastian Walker is invited to game-maker Elisabetta Nardi's mansion, he thinks he can finally leave his troubles behind. Instead, he's plunged into a real-life escape game with the other twelve guests, and a life-changing prize on offer.

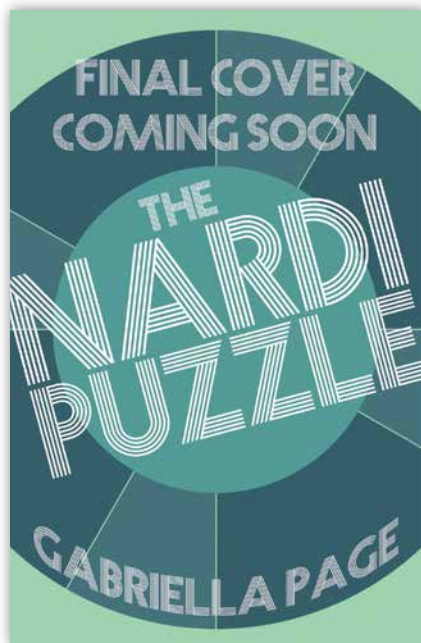
To solve the clues hidden around the mysterious East Wing and find the secret exit, Sebastian must team up with the bubbly Lali and brilliant Vita. Even as a team, though, it won't be easy ... and elimination is just around the corner.

9781761112966 | WOMBAT BOOKS

**AUG 2026** | Middle Fiction | Paperback

248pp | 49,985 words | 9 to 12 years

AU \$18.99 | NZ \$19.99



## HARPER WELLS: TIME WALKER

Bethany Loveridge

Can Harper solve the mystery of her missing mother, or will she stay stuck in the past forever?

The missing Timeline Officers are back, thanks to Harper's discovery that Wollemi Beds can travel without a pre-approved script.

Now, Harper wants to use her Wollemi Bed to find her mum and make her family normal. But the bed keeps travelling her back in time to a random old organ-building workshop. Who is this pernickety girl named Connie? And if Harper ever finds her mum, can she convince her to come home?

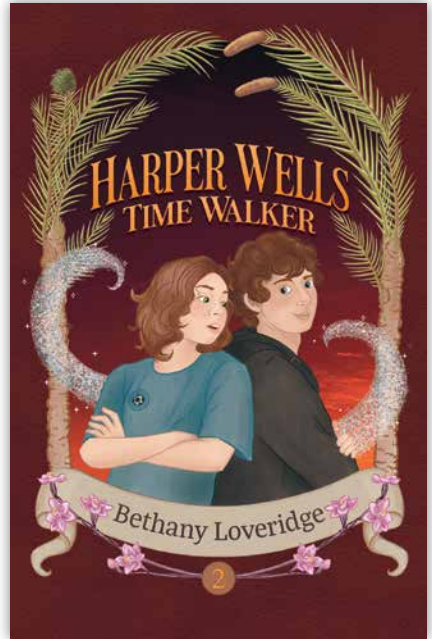
*In this compelling sequel, it's getting harder to tell good from bad. Will Harper find her mother in time?*

9781761113482 | WOMBAT BOOKS

**SEP 2026** | Middle Fiction | Paperback

208pp | 42,220 words | 10 to 14 years

AU \$17.99 | NZ \$18.99



## SOMEWHERE

Shelby Matheson

A city wounded by war. A suspicious stranger.  
A tempting offer with a terrible price.

A new semester means new surprises at Miss Coleridge's Academy for Gifted Youths. Elsie tries her best to be a good Guardian, but a few terrible mistakes cause Elsewhere's trust in her to falter.

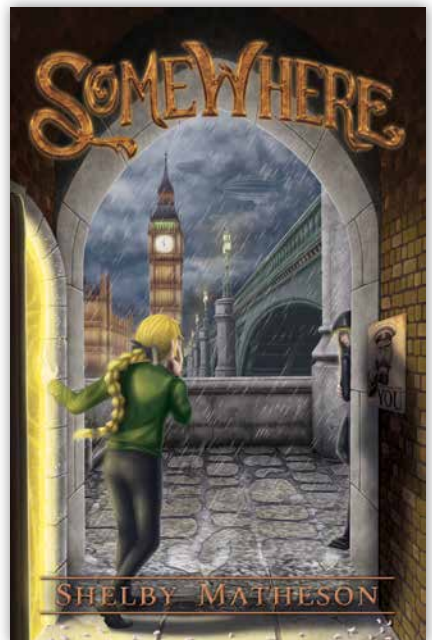
To make matters worse, Gifted kids from around the world have gone missing, taken somewhere the Gateways can't reach. A mysterious figure offers Elsie a tempting solution – a way to keep Gifts for good instead of borrowing them – but the deal comes with a heavy price. Do the ends truly justify the means?

9781761112232 | WOMBAT BOOKS

**MAY 2026** | Middle Fiction | Paperback

372pp | 81,301 words | 10 to 14 years

AU \$21.99 | NZ \$24.99



## MILES THORNE AND THE FORBIDDEN MAGIC

Rebecca Ahola

Will Miles and his team of magical misfits show the world who they really are?

Miles Thorne was kicked out of his last school, the prestigious Nox Wizarding Academy, because he's a wizard with almost no magic. At his new school, he meets Eric, a monster, Freya, a fairy, and Colter, a werewolf, and they enter as a team in the Battle Games, a dangerous contest only for the strongest of magic users.

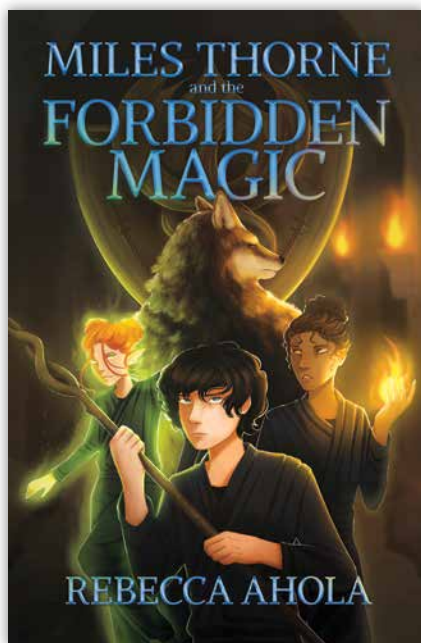
But when Miles's magic starts to develop, it's different from anyone else's. What secret is his family hiding?

9781761113390 | RHIZA EDGE

**JUL 2026** | Young Adult | Paperback

244pp | 59,929 words | 12+ years

AU \$19.99 | NZ \$22.99



## UNDER A DIFFERENT SKY

Edited by R. A. Stephens & Laura Norris

Stories of migration, of new experiences, and new homes.

Stories of migration across the seas, stories of new experiences learnt only once a new home is found and stories that are full of emotion.

In this collection, Australian authors share fictional stories about migration and diaspora, drawing inspiration from their own experiences.

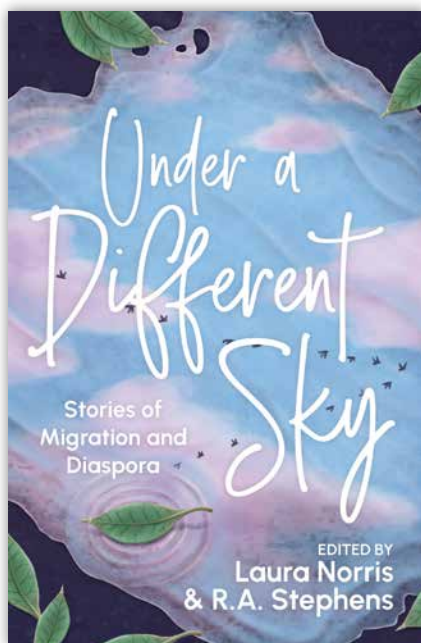
Each story explores culture, identity, and belonging, posing a profound question: What does it mean to change the sky you live under?

9781761113611 | RHIZA EDGE

**AUG 2026** | Young Adult | Paperback

236pp | 40,000 approx. words | 13+ years

AU \$19.99 | NZ \$19.99



**rhiza**  
**SHORTS** **HOW TO MAKE FRIENDS  
AND GO VIRAL BY ACCIDENT**

Y. K. Willemse

Welcome to  
Hayden Connor's nightmare!

Hayden's parents are concerned he's not putting himself out there, so they get him singing lessons. But a 13-year-old boy singing? RIP to his social life!

Then he starts to enjoy it ... until the teasing begins. Two boys at his school are determined to livestream him failing at singing in a recital.

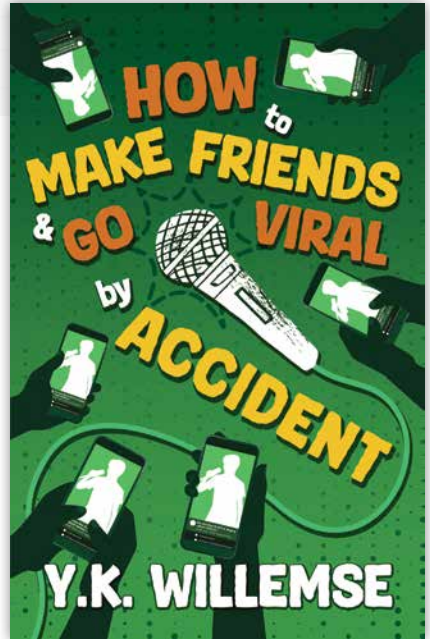
Should he keep his head down, or will he find that using his voice is worth it in the end?

9781761113109 | RHIZA EDGE

**FEB 2026** | Rhiza Shorts | Paperback | 116pp

14,800 words | Reading age 10+ | Interest age 12+

AU \$14.99 | NZ \$16.99



**rhiza**  
**SHORTS** **THE CASTING DILEMMA**

Lynne Stringer

Performing is Kate's dream,  
but she doesn't feel good enough.

Kate wants to be an actor, but when she looks in the mirror, she doesn't like what she sees.

She longs to be like Ashleigh Monahan, who has the perfect looks for the lead part in the school musical. And Ashleigh has talent.

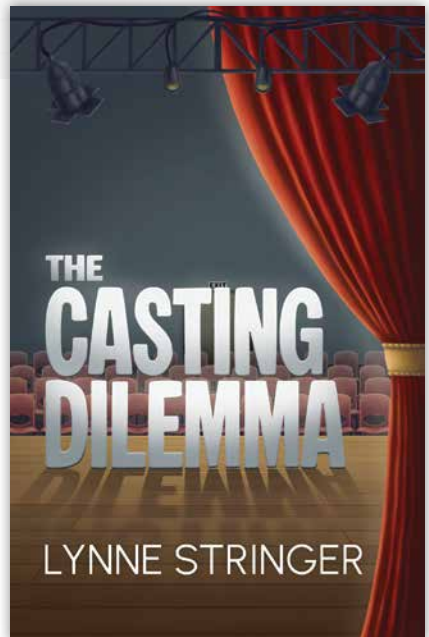
But while Kate can sing and act really well, she thinks she doesn't measure up to Ashleigh's physical perfection. Will she still score a role?

9781761113246 | RHIZA EDGE

**MAY 2026** | Rhiza Shorts | Paperback | 116pp

14,670 words | Reading age 10+ | Interest age 12+

AU \$14.99 | NZ \$16.99





## OSCAR WAS HERE

Julie Modra

One summer. One friendship.  
One story that changes everything.

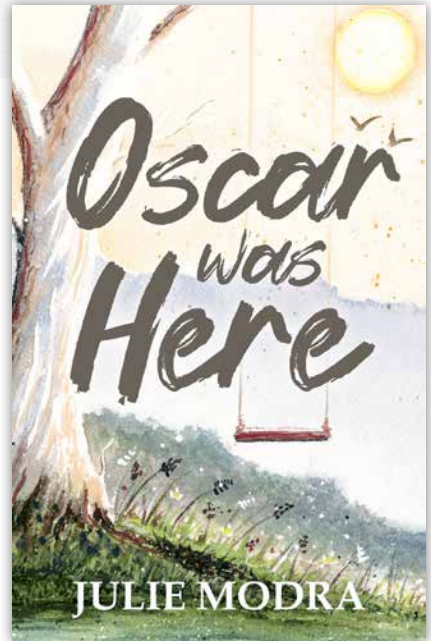
When 13-year-old Milo is sent to spend the summer holidays with his grandmother on the outskirts of a quiet town, he meets Oscar—a boy with a serious heart condition, a dog-eared copy of *Prince Caspian*, and an imagination as vast as Narnia itself. When Oscar is bullied, Milo must find the courage to be the friend he's always wanted to be. And when the summer holidays draw to a close, Milo faces the hardest battle of all: saying goodbye and believing that life—like the best stories—never truly ends.

9781761113512 | RHIZA EDGE

**AUG 2026** | Rhiza Shorts | Paperback | 128pp

17,000 approx. words | Reading age 10+ | Interest age 12+

AU \$15.99 | NZ \$17.99



## ON THE OUTSIDE

Coral Vass

A powerful story of friendship, courage and  
finding your voice when it matters most.

Emma and Noor share everything: their love of surfing, summer skies and a friendship as deep as the ocean. But when Emma's parents pressure her into accepting a place at the prestigious St Catherine's Ladies College, things begin to shift. At the same time, deeply rooted racism starts to resurface in their school, within their community and even at their beloved beach.

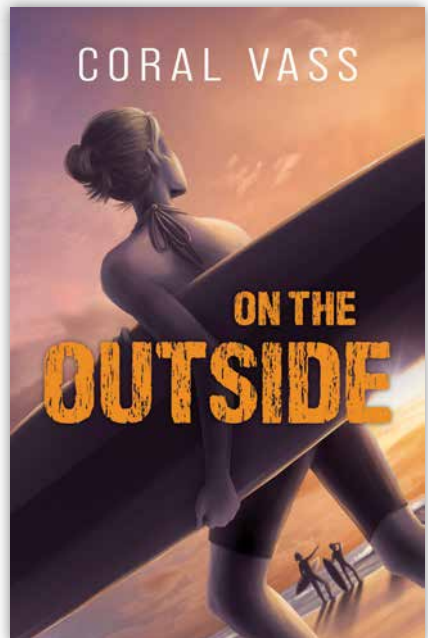
Emma finds herself immobilised by fear. Should she stay silent and change schools, or should she speak out and risk everything?

9781761113420 | RHIZA EDGE

**SEP 2026** | Rhiza Shorts | Paperback | 128pp

15,000 words | Reading age 10+ | Interest age 12+

AU \$14.99 | NZ \$16.99



## **SIX TAKE ONE**

R. A. Stephens

**A party gone so wrong it ends in murder.**

Seventeen-year-old Cassie wonders why she ever agreed to go to a New Year's Party at Johnny's outback farm.

The night has gone from bad to worse.

A car crash, no phone service, games she doesn't want to play, and only six people showed up.

At 2am, Cassie wakes up to a deathly scream. One of them is dead.

Will Cassie be able to escape?

9781761113598 | RHIZA EDGE

**JUN 2026** | Rhiza Shorts | Paperback | 128pp  
16,308 words | Reading age 11+ | Interest age 15+  
AU \$14.99 | NZ \$16.99



## **THE ART OF SOCCER**

Frances Prentice

**Skyla is kicking all her goals, until life starts to spin out of control.**

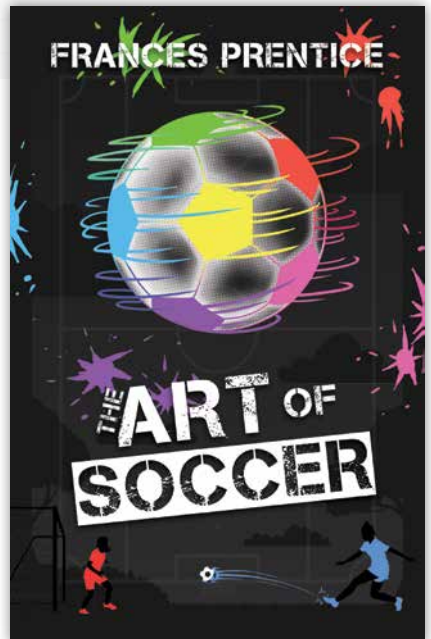
15-year-old Skyla is a keen soccer player. Known as the 'playmaker', she dreams of being a professional and has been selected for the regional team. But when she contracts COVID, her health is shattered.

It's hard to even stand up, much less run on a soccer field.

Can she find a way to shift her love of soccer in a different direction?

9781761113451 | RHIZA EDGE

**OCT 2026** | Rhiza Shorts | Paperback | 128pp  
16,000 approx. words | Reading age 10+ | Interest age 12+  
AU \$15.99 | NZ \$17.99



**rhiza** **SHORTS** **STRAY**  
Rebecca Fraser

15-year-old Charli is a girl under pressure. What happens when that pressure is too much?

When the pressure of Year 10 exams pushes Charli to breaking point, she rebels—hard. But when a graffiti stunt goes too far and her friend, Nudge is expelled, Charli is handed one last chance to turn things around: a week of community service at Rosevale Animal Rescue Centre.

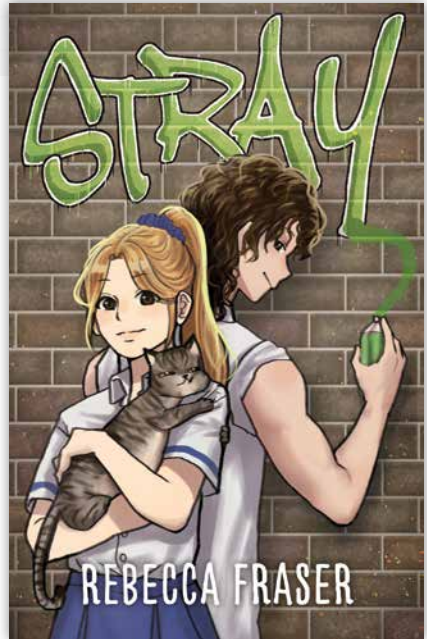
As Charli bonds with a wary stray and throws herself into Rosevale's biggest fundraising day, she'll have to decide whose expectations truly matter—her parents', her friends', or her own.

9781761113673 | RHIZA EDGE

**SEP 2026** | Rhiza Shorts | Paperback | 128pp

18,000 approx. words | Reading age 10+ | Interest age 12+

AU \$15.99 | NZ \$17.99



**rhiza** **SHORTS** **THE E-REVOLUTION**  
Catriona McKeown

All Jolie needs in life is a job—and an e-scooter to get her there. But how can she when the rules say no?

Jolie and her friends are at war with the boys at school. It's a love/hate relationship, where they set each other up with dares and the losers have consequences.

However, when the girls plan for revenge backfires, the town police launch an e-scooter blitz, leaving Jolie and her friends questioning the e-scooter laws that restrict teens. How can they get to school? To their jobs? The teens want real change.

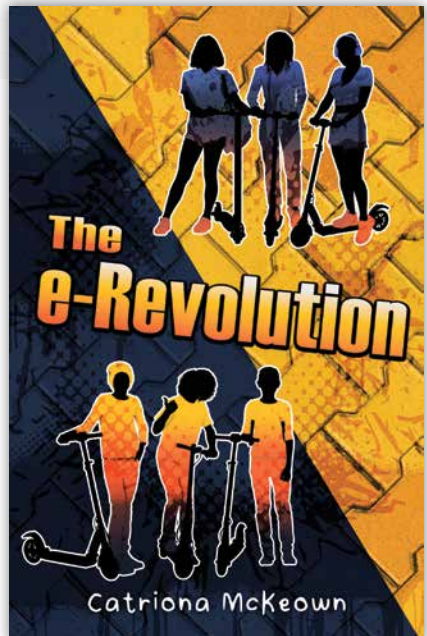
Will it all end in disaster—or spark an e-revolution?

9781761112867 | RHIZA EDGE

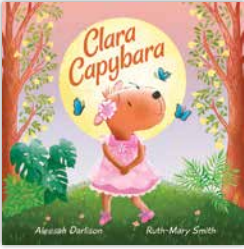
**APR 2026** | Rhiza Shorts | Paperback | 148pp

20,926 words | Reading age 10+ | Interest age 12+

AU \$15.99 | NZ \$17.99



# PICTURE BOOKS

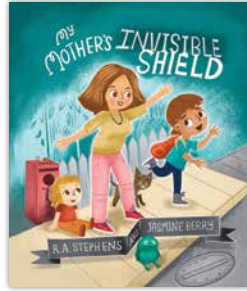


## CLARA CAPYBARA

Aleesah Darlison & Ruth-Mary Smith  
9781761111952 | Hardback  
WOMBAT BOOKS  
JUL 2025 | 32pp  
559 words | 7 to 6 years  
AU \$27.99 | NZ \$27.99

With her 'can do' attitude, Clara Capybara struggles to say no. When Mama offers some wise words, Clara learns a valuable lesson.

Clara is the cutest little capybara in the forest, and she LOVES pleasing others. But Clara is so busy taking care of everyone else, she forgets to look after herself. Can she find a balance between being kind to others and being kind to herself? Her mama imparts wise words to help Clara embrace diplomacy and self-care.

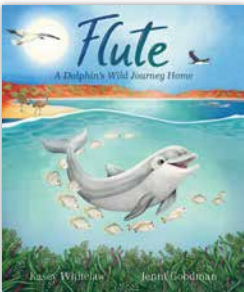


## MY MOTHER'S INVISIBLE SHIELD

R. A. Stephens & Jasmine Berry  
9781761111945 | Hardback  
WOMBAT BOOKS  
APR 2025 | 32pp  
300 words | 3 to 6 years  
AU \$24.99 | NZ \$24.99

A real family message written from the playful perspective of a child.

My mother has an invisible shield. I've tested it. It's true. She knows what I am up to and spots me before I can play any tricks. But there is a way to get through. An enchanting story of a child who tries to play tricks on his mother, but his mother always knows. This interactive picture book playfully comments on the talents of mums as they live life and love their kids.

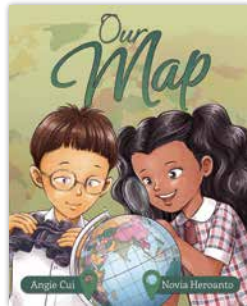


## FLUTE: A DOLPHIN'S WILD JOURNEY HOME

Kasey Whitelaw & Jenni Goodman  
9781761112294 | Hardback  
WOMBAT BOOKS  
AUG 2025 | 32pp  
300 words | 4 to 7 years  
AU \$29.99 | NZ \$29.99

A story of Flute, a determined wild dolphin, who overcomes many threats to get home.

Flute, a playful dolphin, is separated from her dolphin party. Alone and in danger, she begins a wild journey back to the safety of her family and friends. Will she make it home? Inspired by true events and real friendships, and written by a marine biologist, Flute is a story of determination and triumph set in one of Australia's most vibrant landscapes.



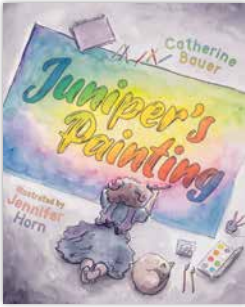
## OUR MAP

Angie Cui & Novia Heroanto  
9781761112362 | Hardback  
WOMBAT BOOKS  
JUN 2025 | 32pp  
300 words | 4 to 7 years  
AU \$27.99 | NZ \$27.99

A journey of friendship and belonging, and celebrating our heritage.

JJ loves maps. But Lee, JJ's bestie, can't find his parents' country on any map. With markers, papers, and lots of imagination, their class creates a magical map that's all their own, so everyone belongs. *Our Map* explores themes of friendship, heritage and the power of imagination, and educates young readers about the importance of cultural understanding and the value of creating new narratives.

# PICTURE BOOKS



## JUNIPER'S PAINTING

Catherine Bauer & Jennifer Horn

9781761112409 | Hardback

WOMBAT BOOKS

OCT 2025 | 32pp

494 words | 4 to 7 years

AU \$26.99 | NZ \$27.99

**Juniper discovers the surprising power of her imagination.**

Juniper is stuck in her beachside home. All she wants is to play on the sand, but it's too wet and Mamma's busy with work. Eventually, Juniper runs out of indoor games, so Mamma suggests she paint a picture. Juniper decides to paint her beloved beach. By the time it's complete, Juniper is surprised to see that something has changed!



## MAVIS: THE LITTLE PLANE SPOTTER

Angela Tonolio & Shannon Melville

9781761111938 | Hardback

WOMBAT BOOKS

MAR 2025 | 32pp

641 words | 4 to 7 years

AU \$27.99 | NZ \$27.99

*"An absolute gem. Opening it is like stepping into a gorgeous moment of history."*

- Dimity Powell, Kids' Book Review

Mavis is frustrated when she is told she is too young to help the war effort, but when she discovers she can volunteer alongside her older sister, she becomes an enemy plane spotter and must keep her eyes on the skies. Imagine her surprise when she sees an enemy bomber fly over her hometown!



## DRAGON GUEST HANDBOOK

Jeanette Stampone & Novia Heroanto

9781761111686 | Hardback

WOMBAT BOOKS

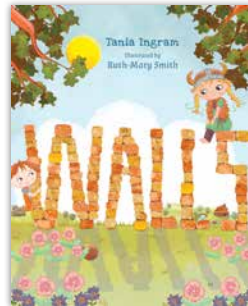
SEP 2024 | 32pp

350 words | 4 to 8 years

AU \$26.99 | NZ \$29.99

**The essential handbook for welcoming your visiting dragon.**

You should always be prepared for when a dragon tourist lands in your backyard. Your visitor will need to meet the family, learn table manners and go sightseeing. While this hilarious book is full of silliness, it also explores language barriers. The heartwarming ending leaves readers with a beautiful message of embracing differences.



## WALLS

Tania Ingram & Ruth-Mary Smith

9781761111518 | Hardback

WOMBAT BOOKS

JUL 2024 | 32pp

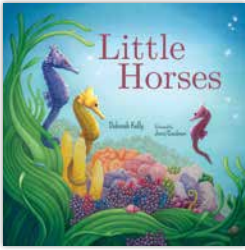
150 words | 4 to 8 years

AU \$26.99 | NZ \$29.99

**A book about differences, choices, prejudice and seeing the bigger picture.**

A Viking and a Knight are both convinced that they live on the best side of the book. When each becomes suspicious of the other, their solution is to build walls for safety. But in their quest to build the better wall, will they fail to see the environmental dangers that threatens both sides of the book?

# PICTURE BOOKS



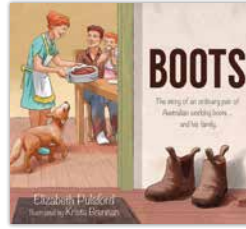
## LITTLE HORSES

Deborah Kelly &  
Jenni Goodman

9781761111310 | Hardback  
WOMBAT BOOKS  
FEB 2024 | 32pp  
240 words | 4 to 8 years  
AU \$24.99 | NZ \$24.99

**An Australian conservation success story about seahorses, inspired by true events.**

Beneath the waters of a calm bay, seahorses hide from predators, feed on shrimp and raise their young. But when a storm destroys their habitat, they are left exposed and without food. Until, a Marine Biologist comes up with a clever invention to provide them with shelter and food while the natural environment recovers.



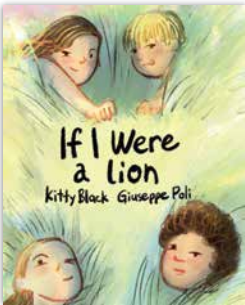
## BOOTS

Elisabeth Pulsford &  
Krista Brennan

9781761111037 | Hardback  
WOMBAT BOOKS  
MAY 2024 | 32pp  
300 words | 4 to 8 years  
AU \$26.99 | NZ \$29.99

**If your boots could tell a story, what would they say?**

Our lives are measured by the places we hold dear, the people we love and the paths we have trodden. So, who better to tell our stories than the shoes we wear? Through the endearing perspective of a beloved pair of working boots, this picture book narrates the life of a cattle farmer and his love of the Australian bush.



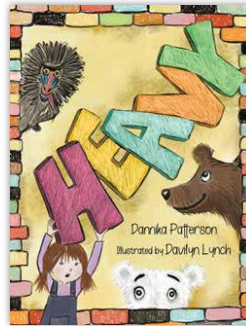
## IF I WERE A LION

Kitty Black &  
Giuseppe Poli

9781761110191 | Hardback  
WOMBAT BOOKS  
JUN 2023 | 32pp  
250 words | 4 to 6 years  
AU \$24.99 | NZ \$26.99

**If I Were A Lion is a frolicsome anthem of self-affirmation for all children.**

*If I Were A Lion* follows the journey of different children as they express admiration for different lion traits, wishing they had the same courage, curiosity, lounging ability or terrific smile that lions do. But, with the wishing comes the realisation that those same abilities are the ones they already have. Everyone can be a lion, everyone is fierce and free to be themselves!



## HEAVY

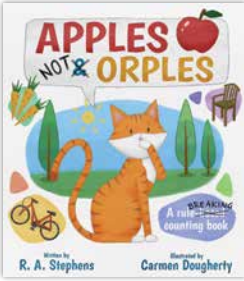
Dannika Patterson &  
Davilyn Lynch

9781761111020 | Hardback  
WOMBAT BOOKS  
MAR 2023 | 32pp  
350 words | 4 to 8 years  
AU \$24.99 | NZ \$24.99

**An empowering story about a family with heavy burdens, an inventive girl, and pacing yourself.**

Nina uses her powers of invention to teach her family of incredibly strong women how to take a break from their busy work at the Wildlife Rescue Centre. Dannika Patterson's exciting language combines with Davilyn Lynch's dynamic artwork to create a fun, animal-filled allegory for children that explores prioritising, sharing the load and the beauty of doing just one thing at a time.

# PICTURE BOOKS



## APPLES NOT ORPLES

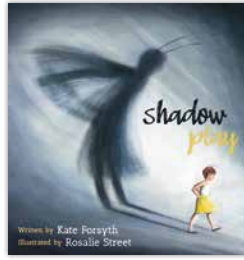
R. A. Stephens & Carmen Dougherty

9781761111693 | Hardback  
WOMBAT BOOKS  
OCT 2024 | 32pp  
120 words | 4 to 8 years  
AU \$24.99 | NZ \$24.99

An alternate counting book that shows why you can't add things that aren't the same.

*Apples Not Orples* is a rule-following, and slightly rule-breaking, counting adventure. This quirky introduction to like terms will help children understand a fundamental principle of algebra and patterns.

Teachers can use this resource to engage readers in all the different ways you can go wrong in adding like terms.



## SHADOW PLAY

Kate Forsyth & Rosalie Street

9781925563740 | Hardback  
WOMBAT BOOKS  
AUG 2024 | 32pp  
158 words | 4 to 8 years  
AU \$26.99 | NZ \$29.99

A beautiful story for all the children who are held back by fear. A change in perspective can change your life.

A beautiful story of friendship and overcoming your fears.

Using imaginative play, Ziggy shows Minnie May that her shadow doesn't have to be scary. For all children who are held back by fear to learn that a change in perspective can change your life.



## GIOVANNI

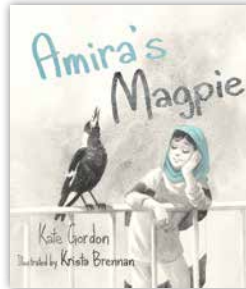
Crystal Corocher & Margeaux Davis

9781761111235 | Hardback  
WOMBAT BOOKS  
OCT 2023 | 32pp  
1,000 words | 4 to 8 years  
AU \$24.99 | NZ \$24.99

This is a true story of some of the first Italian migrants to arrive in Australia and the perilous journey they survived in 1881.

In the tradition of great high seas adventure stories of times passed, with one key difference - this is a true story!

The epic adventure of four-year-old Giovanni and the journey that could have ended his life, bringing him instead to start a new adventure in a new country, Australia.



## AMIRA'S MAGPIE

Kate Gordon & Krista Brennan

9781925563986 | Hardback  
WOMBAT BOOKS  
OCT 2021 | 32pp  
200 words | 4 to 10 years  
AU \$24.99 | NZ \$24.99

Hope can be found even in smallest happinesses, when it seems like all hope is lost.

*Amira's Magpie* is a story of friendship, family and escape; of bravery and resilience in the face of hardship. It is the story of hope we find in small happinesses, even when it seems like all hope is lost. In a beautifully lyrical way, this gentle yet powerful story reminds us of asylum seekers and anyone who longs for home.

# PICTURE BOOKS



## MILA AND IVY

Katrina McKelvey  
& Jasmine Berry

9781761111112 | Paperback

WOMBAT BOOKS

APR 2023 | 32pp

407 words | 2 to 7 years

AU \$17.99 | NZ \$18.99

**Two sisters who work very differently. Can they find a way to work together?**

Mila is a cardboard design engineer. She's currently designing and constructing a cupcake catapult with her little sister, Ivy. However, Ivy destroys their project, making cardboard confetti instead. Mila is devastated and continues to engineer ... alone. But maybe Ivy made cardboard confetti for a reason. How do the sisters rebuild their relationship while engineering their next ultimate cardboard creation?



## HARRISON'S SONG

Harrison Craig &  
Ann-Marie Finn

9781925563115 | Paperback

WOMBAT BOOKS

JAN 2017 | 32pp

300 words | 3 to 8 years

AU \$16.99 | NZ \$20.99

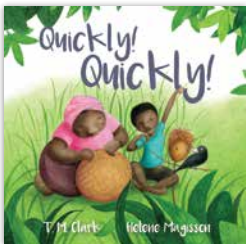
**Hiding inside you is a great gift waiting to be discovered.**

Harrison is a bit different to the other kids.

Each time he tries to speak, he stutters. No matter how hard he tries, his tongue feels tied up in knots. That is, until one day when Harrison discovers his talent.

*Harrison's Song* tells the story of how Harrison overcame adversity because he just wanted to share the love and words inside him.

• Also in Hardback 9781925563122



## QUICKLY! QUICKLY!

T.M. Clark &  
Helene Magisson

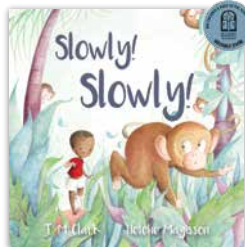
9781761110832 | Hardback

WOMBAT BOOKS

JUL 2022 | 32pp

6 to 10 years | AU \$24.99

Bongani has accepted he's too small to attend school just yet. But he also doesn't want to be chasing the animals away on his own either. He decides he needs a scared crow to help him do this important job. Luckily his family are there to teach him the difference between being quick and being clever to catch a crow.



## SLOWLY! SLOWLY!

T.M. Clark &  
Helene Magisson

9781761110382 | Paperback

WOMBAT BOOKS

JUL 2022 | 32pp

6 to 10 years | AU \$14.99

Bongani wants to go to school but he is too young. To prove to his family that he is big and strong just like his cousins, he tries to catch a monkey. Slowly, slowly, he must go. Luckily his family is there to school him in the lessons of patience and compassion.

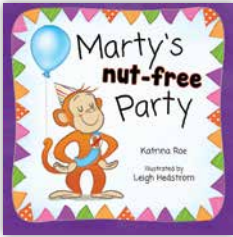
**'Softly, softly, catchee monkey' was originally an Ashanti (Ghana) proverb quoted by Lord Robert Baden-Powell, Founder of the Boy Scouts.**

• Humorous and fun, with engaging art, this picture book teaches about teamwork, learning from others and aspects of other cultures.

• Notable in the CBCA Book of the Year Awards 2018.

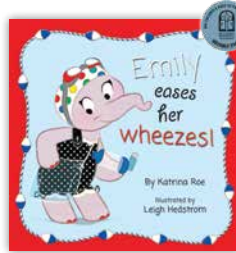


# PICTURE BOOKS



## MARTY'S NUT-FREE PARTY

Katrina Roe &  
Leigh Hedstrom  
9781921633362 | Hardback  
WOMBAT BOOKS  
JAN 2012 | 32pp  
600 words | 4 to 8 years |  
AU \$19.99 | NZ \$24.99



## EMILY EASES HER WHEEZES

Katrina Roe &  
Leigh Hedstrom  
9781925139129 | Hardback  
WOMBAT BOOKS  
JUL 2014 | 32pp  
600 words | 4 to 8 years |  
AU \$19.99 | NZ \$24.99

Join Marty and his friends in educational adventures to help them to understand allergies, asthma and anxiety.

Marty loved to party. At every party, Marty was the first to arrive and the last to leave. That was before Marty found out that peanuts make him sick. Really sick. Parties aren't so much fun for Marty now that he keeps ending up in hospital. How can Marty and his friends make their parties safe and fun for everybody? It just wasn't a party without Marty.

- Shortlisted in the Speech Pathology Awards 2013.

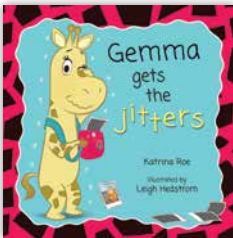


If Emily tries to play basketball, she ends up puffing.

What can you do when asthma stops you from playing with your friends?

Join Emily and her friends as they find a way she can join in on the fun.

- Notable in the CBCA Book of the Year Awards 2015.



## GEMMA GETS THE JITTERS

Katrina Roe &  
Leigh Hedstrom  
9781925563139 | Hardback  
WOMBAT BOOKS  
JAN 2017 | 32pp  
600 words | 4 to 8 years |  
AU \$19.99 | NZ \$24.99

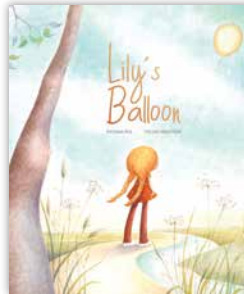
Can Gemma overcome her fear of heights? Maybe Marty and friends can help.

Gemma has a new camera!

She is visiting the mountains and wants to get the perfect photo. But at the top of the lookout, Gemma gets the jitters.

Will she let her fear of heights stop her from achieving her dream?

Join Gemma, Marty and their friends as they help Gemma overcome her jitters.



## LILY'S BALLOON

Katrina Roe &  
Helene Magisson  
9781925563399 | Hardback  
WOMBAT BOOKS  
JUL 2018 | 32pp  
500 words | 4 to 6 years  
AU \$19.99 | NZ \$24.99

Even in times of sadness, beauty and joy can be found all around us.

When Lily finds a beautiful, big, shiny balloon she wants to keep it forever ...

But what if somebody else needs it more?

*Lily's Balloon* is a gentle, hopeful story about disappointment, loss and learning to let go. Three young lives are connected through one balloon, which touches them in different ways.

## ARIANA TREASURE SERIES

Jacqueline de Rose-Ahern & Karen Erasmus

WOMBAT BOOKS | Junior Fiction | Paperback

48-64pp | 1,500 words | 4 to 8 years

AU \$10.99 | NZ \$11.99

Join Ariana at the Treasure Chest – the best thrift shop in town!

In the *Ariana Treasure* early reader series there are always problems to solve and fun to be had. Ariana often saves the day with her quick thinking and thoughtful spirit. The stories explore friendship, families, diversity, courage and sustainability.

- Encourages creative problem-solving strategies.
- Themes of kindness, friendship, teamwork, community and multiculturalism.
- Emphasis on sustainability and caring for the environment through reusing.
- Beginning reader friendly, with short chapters.

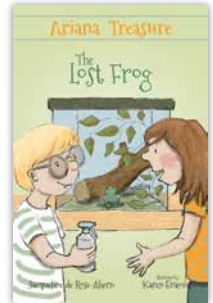


### The Missing Book (9781761111808 | MAR 2025):

Ariana is excited to hear there is a new kid in town. She can't wait to show him around the Treasure Chest. Can Ariana use the treasures from the thrift shop to help make a new friend and find her missing book?

### The Secret Ingredient (9781761111822 | MAR 2025):

Ariana's friends Hunter and Jake are excited for the food truck competition. They're confident their family will win. Thanks to the Treasure Chest they have their standout dish. But can the boys work together to make it?



### The Lucky Shoes (9781761111846 | MAY 2025):

Ariana Treasure loves helping a friend and Maya definitely needs help. There's a talent show at school, but Maya thinks she has no talent. Can Ariana help Maya discover her special talent before show day?

### The Lost Frog (9781761111860 | JUL 2025):

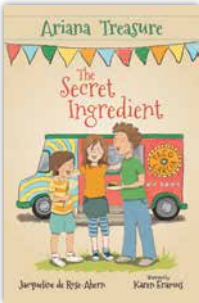
Ariana loves animals but what happens when a mischievous frog accidentally ends up at her mother's thrift shop, The Treasure Chest? Can Ariana help get the lost frog home before it causes too much trouble?

### The Perfect Day (9781761111884 | SEP 2025):

Aunt Grace is getting married and Ariana is so excited! She is going to be a flower girl. But the wedding cake and dress are ruined in an accident! Can Ariana find a way to fix Aunt Grace's perfect day?

### The Fundraiser (9781761111907 | NOV 2025):

Oh no, the Treasure Chest has to close! Ariana is heartbroken and Mum is out of ideas. Mr Francis wants to turn the thrift shop into a cafe. Can the community find a way to help save grandpa's shop?



## AMANDA COMMANDER SERIES

Coral Vass & Heidi Cooper Smith

- A charming series about a Amanda and her faithful friends as she navigates some important learning moments at school.

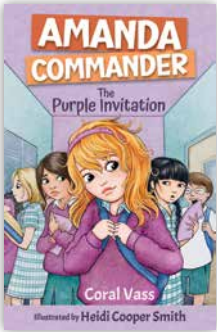
- Teaches kids valuable life lessons like: be kind not for personal gain but out of love; empathy and self-sacrifice for people in need.

- Series promotes kindness, loyalty, and friendship and instilling values of inclusion, compassion, empathy and positive friendships.

WOMBAT BOOKS | Paperback | 72-96pp

7,000 words | 6 to 10 years | AU \$12.99 | NZ \$14.99

The Dolphin Squad always has a plan for any problem that comes their way, but things don't always turnout the way they expected.



**The Purple Invitation (9781761110771 | MAR 2022):**

It's OPERATION INVITATION! Amanda tries everything to make Eve like her and get an invitation her party, until she finally learns it's more important to be kind, not for what you can get but because of who you are.

**The Pinky Promise (9781761110788 | JUN 2022):**

It's OPERATION CROSS COUNTRY! Even though she is competitive, Amanda learns it is more important to show kindness to others than win.

**The Yellow Dress (9781761110795 | SEP 2022):**

It's OPERATION DISCO DRESS! In their mission to get Eve to wear a different coloured dress, however, the Dolphin Squad find that there might be something amazing to be had out of wearing the same dress...

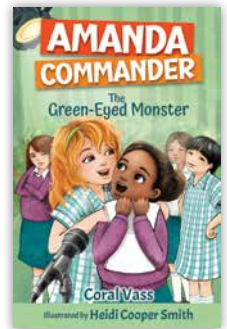
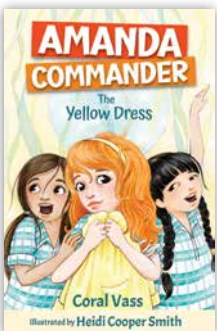


**The Blues Day Tuesday (9781761111266 | MAR 2024):**

It's OPERATION WELCOME BACK! When Amanda returns to school after a sick day, fitting back in with her friend group is hard. Amanda decides, with the help of the Dolphin Squad, to go out of her way and include everyone. But how will she ensure no one else has a blues day, like she did?

**The Green-Eyed Monster (9781761111341 | OCT 2024):**

It's OPERATION SCHOOL PRODUCTION! When Amanda and her friends encourage Rosie to try out for the school play, a 'green-eye monster' tries to discourage Rosie and sabotage the play. Can Amanda and the Dolphin Squad help Rosie and save the show?



# EARLY READERS

## RUBY WISHFINGERS

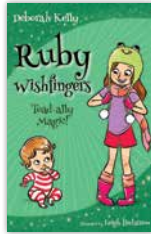
Deborah Kelly & Leigh Hedstrom

WOMBAT BOOKS | MAR 2016 to OCT 2017 | Paperback

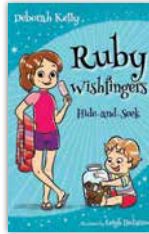
96pp | 10,000 words | 6 to 10 years | AU \$9.99



9781925139631



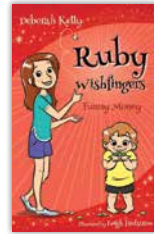
9781925139815



9781925139938



9781925563160



9781925563269

An ordinary girl with an extraordinary name. When her fingers start to tingle she knows a magical adventure is about to begin.

Ruby Wishfingers is an ordinary girl with an extraordinary name. Only nobody else seems to think so. That is until Ruby Wishfingers wakes up with a strange feeling in the tips of her fingers. She soon finds out that there is far more to being a Wishfingers than having a funny name!

- Teaches kids to be careful what they wish for and the unintended side effects of acting rashly
- Taking ownership of mistakes and problem-solving from a child's perspective
- Teaches kids about coping with changes in the home such as new siblings, difficult relatives and the struggles of growing up
- Skydancer's Escape was a Notable in the CBCA Book of the Year Awards 2017



## PEPPER MASALAH SERIES

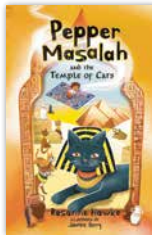
Rosanne Hawke & Jasmine Berry

WOMBAT BOOKS | MAR 2023 to NOV 2024 | Paperback

72pp | 7,000 words | 6 to 10 years | AU \$11.99 | NZ \$12.99



9781761111105



9781761111143



9781761111204



9781761111624



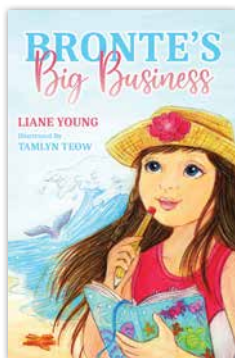
9781761111730

A boy and his clever cat fly on an ancient carpet having fantastical adventures where they land.

A fierce storm sweeps Pepper, Zam and their trusty flying carpet away on adventures through history. Captured by camel traders, visiting an ancient cat temple, swooped up by a mysterious Simurgh, and a meeting with the carpet's original royal owner! There is some much to see and learn, and many friends to make along the way. But will they every find their way home?

- Teaching kids the value of kindness and self-giving. Themes of bravery, compassion, and selflessness.
- A story that emphasises the power of true friendship and the important role pets play in the development of some young children.
- Fantastical adventure introducing the cultures across Asia and the Middle East, matching the school curriculum for the age group.

# JUNIOR FICTION



## BRONTE'S BIG BUSINESS

Liane Young & Tamlyn Teow

9781925563863 | Paperback

WOMBAT BOOKS

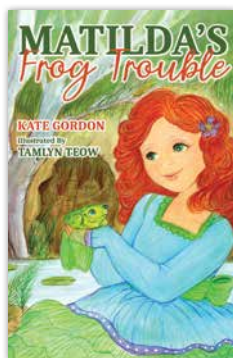
**JUL 2025** | 96pp

8,000 words | 7 to 12 years

AU \$14.99 | NZ \$14.99

**An Australian Girl story about taking action within your means and enjoying your childhood.**

Bronte has always loved the beach, but not everyone respects the beach as much as they should. So she decides to do something about it! After some brainstorming with her friends, she comes up with a creative solution to the litter problem—but will she become a victim of her own success? She might need some advice to help her out.



## MATILDA'S FROG TROUBLE

Kate Gordon & Tamlyn Teow

9781925563887 | Paperback

WOMBAT BOOKS

**OCT 2025** | 96pp

8,000 words | 9 to 13 years

AU \$14.99 | NZ \$14.99

**An Australian Girl story about people from far-off lands, and girls who seem different at first, but are really quite alike.**

After travelling with her family, Matilda is back in Australia. She is visiting her cousin Emily. One day, Emily finds an old tin with a Chinese character on it. Where did it come from? Things get more mysterious—and adventurous—when a naughty froglet escapes. Now there is a mystery to solve and a frog to find!



## SKIPPY BLACKFEET

Rebecca Fraser & Jennifer Horn

9781761111662 | Hardback

WOMBAT BOOKS

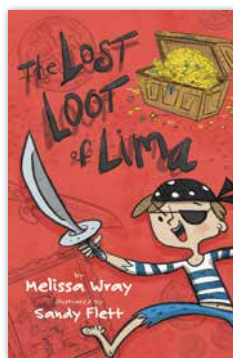
**MAR 2025** | 112pp

12,000 words | 7 to 12 years

AU \$19.99 | NZ \$22.99

**Skippy Blackfeet is a heartwarming tale of friendship, acceptance, and belonging.**

Skippy Blackfeet lives in the cemetery. He's often hungry and lonely... but at least he's safe. When May finds Skippy and brings him home, their adventures together have only just begun. But Skippy Blackfeet and May go together like milk and sardines, and together they can face any challenge.



## THE LOST LOOT OF LIMA

Melissa Wray & Sandy Flett

9781761111600 | Paperback

WOMBAT BOOKS

**JUN 2025** | 128pp

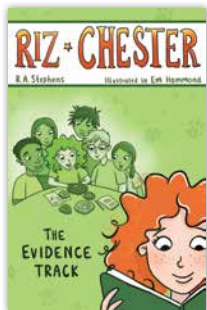
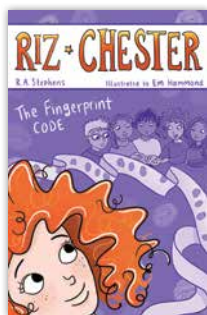
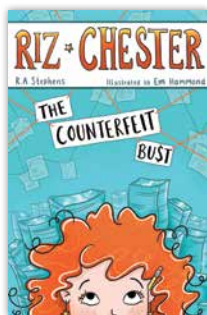
20,000 words | 7 to 12 years

AU \$14.99 | NZ \$16.99

**A adventure filled treasure hunt, and saying goodbye.**

For ten-year-old Benjamin being a treasure hunter is great. But learning you're a pirate is even better. When Grandad passed away, he left Ben one last treasure hunt. Ben, with Nan's help, must find the loot. But does someone else know about the treasure too? Ben must face danger and use his wits, or risk losing the loot forever. One last adventure to remember, and say goodbye to a treasured family member.

# JUNIOR FICTION



## RIZ CHESTER SERIES R. A. Stephens & Em Hammond

WOMBAT BOOKS | Paperback  
90pp | 9,000 words | 6+ years | AU \$12.99 | NZ \$12.99

Riz Chester has a passion for forensics. Using her unique observational skills help she and her friends to solve puzzling mysteries.

- Age-appropriate and realistic forensic investigations.
- A relatable group of characters using real problem solving and data analysis skills to uncover unique mysteries.

**The Counterfeit Bust (9781761111181 | MAY 2023):** Riz Chester, an observant 10-year-old, finds out some counterfeit money, can she use her powers of observation to work out who is behind it?

**The Fingerprint Code (9781761111280 NOV 2023):** Something is missing from the music room. Riz and her friends break out her new forensics kit and set out to uncover the truth. Who left the fingerprint in the music room?

**The Evidence Track (9781761111525 | SEP 2024):** Riz and her friends itching for a mystery to solve, so Riz organises the perfect 'match-the-tracks' party for her friends. How could an innocent party get them into trouble?

## THE SECRET SCIENCE SOCIETY SERIES

Kathy Hoopmann, Josie Montano & Ann-Marie Finn

WOMBAT BOOKS | Paperback | 108pp | 10,480 words | 8+ years | AU \$12.99 | NZ \$14.99

Welcome to the Secret Science Society, where science is the number one source of disaster. Join Zane and his friends in these crazy experiments but, sssshhhh, the ending is a secret!

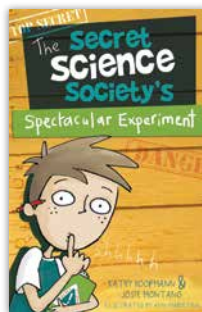
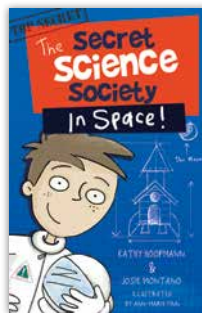
- Depicts various forms of neurodiversity from a neurodivergent child's perspective
- A science and space themed story for children with a relatable comedic twist

### The Secret Science Society In Space (9781761110092 | JUN 2023):

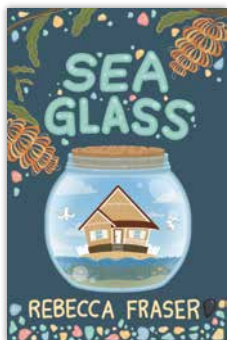
The Secret Science Society need to come up with a prize-winning experiment. Do they really build a rocket ship to put a dog in space? And will they solar-brate a win at the Science Expo? Zane's mystery modifications can only lead to one thing: An astronomical DISASTER! But sssshhhhhh, the ending is out of this world.

### The Secret Science Society's Spectacular Experiment

(9781925563764 | AUG 2019): Mona likes to moan. Kiki is a worry-wart. Bart loves following rules. And Zane HATES following rules. When the four of them are put into The Secret Science Society together, this could only mean one thing: DISASTER!



## JUNIOR FICTION



### SEA GLASS

Rebecca Fraser

9781761111075 | Paperback

WOMBAT BOOKS

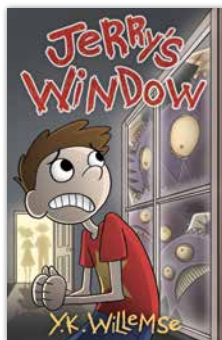
MAR 2023 | 112pp

22,000 words | 7 to 12 years

AU \$14.99 | NZ \$16.99

**A coming-of-age story celebrating the importance of family.**

When Cailin must spend Christmas at her eccentric grandfather's shack at Whitefoam Cove, her holiday plans are ruined. Cailin barely remembers him. Memories of her father are everywhere—and worse, she left her cricket bat at home! She's set for the worst summer ever, until she learns treasure can be found in the most unexpected places!



### JERRY'S WINDOW

Y. K. Willemse

9781761111402 | Hardback

WOMBAT BOOKS

APR 2024 | 156pp

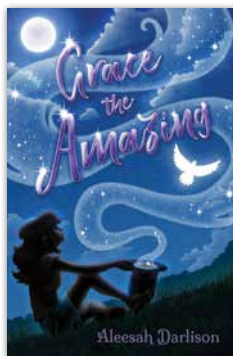
33,000 words | 7 to 12 years

AU \$14.99 | NZ \$16.99

**A humorous tale of a mischievous boy and his close call with monsters.**

Ten-year-old Jerry is a troublemaker. Setting off stink bombs, flooding mum's laundry, and causing mayhem on the bus. One day a window appears beneath mum's washing line filled with hungry monsters looking for Jerry. The monsters don't have an appetite for good children, so Jerry must change his ways. But he can only fool them for so long...

## MIDDLE FICTION



### GRACE THE AMAZING

Aleesah Darlison

9781761111174 | Paperback

WOMBAT BOOKS

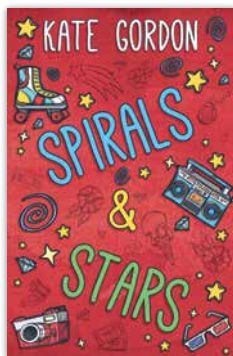
MAY 2024 | 140pp

38,014 words | 8+ years

AU \$14.99 | NZ \$16.99

**Original and endearing, filled with laughter, tears, and relatable childhood moments that will forever be in your heart.**

Grace Marshall is a curious, precocious, and eccentric young eleven-year-old. But when Grace learns her only true friend and art teacher, Pamela, is dying, she embarks on a journey to find a cure using miraculous magic. While doing so she asks the big questions about life, love, friendship, and death.



### SPIRALS AND STARS

Kate Gordon

9781761111709 | Paperback

WOMBAT BOOKS

SEP 2024 | 224pp

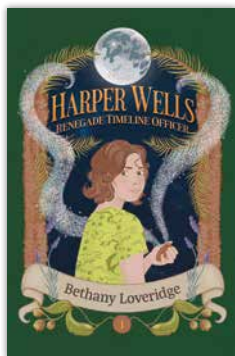
50,000 words | 10 to 14 years

AU \$16.99 | NZ \$19.99

**A timeless '90s story about friendship, finding your place in the world.**

Behind everything is a secret from Beth's past. A secret so terrible it stays with her, making the spirals come. Is that why Ashlee doesn't want to be friends? Is that why Mum avoids her? When the strange, new, nerdy kid, Jools, befriends Beth, she is swept up into the School Nerd Club. Can a nerdy girl with mismatched socks, a rebellious punk, a popular boy and a science fiction movie help set it right?

# MIDDLE FICTION



## HARPER WELLS: RENEGADE TIMELINE OFFICER

Bethany Loveridge

9781761112928 | Paperback

WOMBAT BOOKS

SEP 2025 | 236pp

50,037 words | 10+ years

AU \$17.99 | NZ \$18.99

*"I love this intriguing and exciting time travel adventure!"*

- Karen Foxlee

Harper Wells gets a room of her own, away from her annoying big brother. But on the first night in her brand-new bed, she wakes up in the past and meets a young girl named Edie. Has Harper changed the course of Australia's history? And who does her strange time-travelling bed really belong to? The answer puts her life in danger as she tries to find a missing girl before time runs out.



## ELSEWHERE

Shelby Matheson

9781761112140 | Paperback

WOMBAT BOOKS

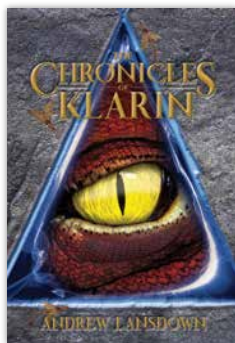
JUN 2025 | 280pp

80,000 words | 10+ years

AU \$19.99 | NZ \$24.99

**A mysterious school in the woods.  
A sentient forest with a magical secret.**

At the outbreak of World War I, 11-year-old Elsie Clarke is sent to a school in the woods for the most talented children. Fewer still, the Gifted, are invited to a sentient forest called Elsewhere. Elsie's world is transformed by the knowledge of Gifts—special talents born from children's traits, desires and fears. Gifts they will need when the headmistress reveals that she'll do whatever it takes to win the war.



## THE CHRONICLES OF KLARIN

Andrew Lansdown

9781925563580 | Paperback

WOMBAT BOOKS

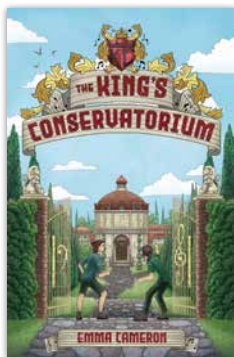
OCT 2018 | 394pp

8 to 12 years

AU \$24.99 | NZ \$26.99

**A tale of the bonds that bring us together when terrors threaten to tear us apart.**

When the unlikely hero, Colyn, finds a knife with mysterious powers, he opens a door to a fascinating otherworld, Klarin. There he is attacked by dragons and defended by warriors. Colyn meets Yasni, a girl who helps him in his dangerous quest to stop the dragons from gaining a new power that threatens his world.



## THE KING'S CONSERVATORIUM

Emma Cameron

9781761112720 | Paperback

WOMBAT BOOKS

SEP 2025 | 184pp

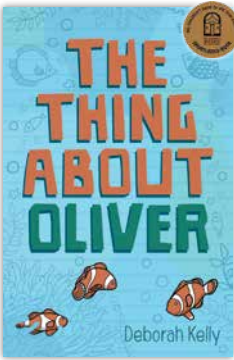
36,400 words | 10 to 13 years

AU \$16.99 | NZ \$19.99

**In a kingdom where music is banned, two brothers seek a place to be free.**

When 12-year-old Garlan and his mute brother Cadell are forced to run from their abusive guardians, they plan to find the land beyond their own, a place where they're allowed to sing, unlike the laws that banish all forms of music in their home in Elatha. They begin a dangerous journey to cross the great wall at the kingdom's border.

# MIDDLE FICTION



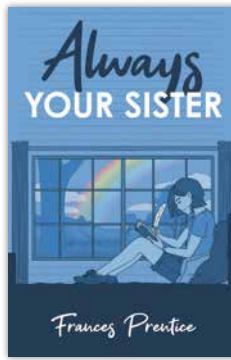
## THE THING ABOUT OLIVER

Deborah Kelly  
9781925563818 | Paperback  
WOMBAT BOOKS  
JAN 2019 | 132pp  
30,000 words | 10+ years  
AU \$14.99 | NZ \$17.99

Could so many changes all at once threaten to shatter the whole family?

- Awards: Shortlisted in CBCA 2020. Shortlisted in Speech Pathology 2019. Winner of Family Therapy 2020

Tilly dreams of becoming a marine scientist, but she lives in a drought-stricken town with her mum and younger brother Oliver, who has autism. Oliver's needs have to come first, but it's hard feeling invisible all the time. When Mum moves them to the coast Tilly is excited, but also worried. Could such a big change tear the family apart?



## ALWAYS YOUR SISTER

Frances Prentice  
9781761112065 | Paperback  
WOMBAT BOOKS  
MAR 2025 | 224pp  
41,300 words | 9 to 12 years  
AU \$17.99 | NZ \$19.99

Millie has a lot of big, mixed feelings, but her loved ones are there for her.

Millie's baby brother, Noah, was stillborn four years ago. She writes to him in heaven, confiding her anxieties when her parents announce they're going to have another baby. What if this baby dies like Noah did? What if something happens to her mum? As Millie learns to take life day by day, she finds that even in storms, there are sometimes rainbows.



## THE FIRST TACKLE

Rikki-Lee Arnold  
9781761110818 | Paperback  
WOMBAT BOOKS  
MAR 2022 | 148pp  
8 to 12 years  
AU \$14.99 | NZ \$16.99

The message is clear - girls don't play footy. But Dani's going to show everybody that they're wrong

Daniella Murphy is on a mission. All she has ever wanted to do is play rugby league, just like her three brothers. But when a scary accident threatens to derail her dreams altogether, even Dani is ready to admit defeat. Will she ever be able to prove that she can do exactly what the boys can do?



## A ROOM FOR RYEL

Emma Cameron  
9781761111358 | Paperback  
WOMBAT BOOKS  
MAR 2024 | 148pp  
27,800 words | 9 to 12 years  
AU \$14.99 | NZ \$16.99

A story of adapting to change, a new family, and learning to compromise.

When Ryel and his dad move into a three-bedroom house with Lonnie and her two sons, Ryel is forced to share a room. Although the boys are friends at school, living together provides a new set of challenges. Luckily, the annual sockey tournament at school is coming up. The boys make a deal. Whoever ranks highest in the competition gets the empty room all to himself.

# MIDDLE FICTION

## KANGAROO VALLEY SERIES

Cecily Anne Paterson

WOMBAT BOOKS | 2018-2021 | Paperback

192pp | 50,000 words | 10+ years | AU \$16.99 | NZ \$20.99

Fluttering mascara eyelashes, hilarious antics with chickens, netball state finals, and missing puppies! There's never a dull moment in Kangaroo Valley.

### Smart Girls Don't Wear Mascara (9781925563443):

Will Abby follow her friends, or follow her dreams?

### How Not To Be Popular (9781925563658):

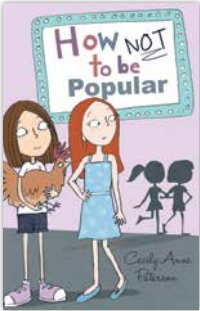
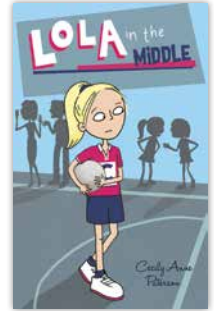
How far is Maddie willing to go to be popular?

### Lola in the Middle (9781925563900):

Lola is always stuck in the middle. Can she stand up for herself?

**The Ava Show (978176110405):** With no one to pick up after her, can Ava mend her ways and put things right?

- Explores themes like be considerate to others; take responsibility for your actions; how to stand up for yourself; treat other the way you want to be treated.
- Relatable and fun stories featuring young girls navigating their personal struggles in school and at home and learning from their experiences.



## TEMORA AND THE WORD-SNATCHERS

Kate Gordon

9781761101022 | Paperback

WOMBAT BOOKS

MAY 2023 | 280pp

80,000 words | 10+ years

AU \$19.99 | NZ \$24.99

- Winner of the 2024 Forevability Book Awards for Category 2



## TEMORA AND THE DREAMERS

Kate Gordon

9781761101053 | Paperback

WOMBAT BOOKS

SEP 2023 | 280pp

80,000 words | 10+ years

AU \$19.99 | NZ \$24.99

A portal fantasy, for fans of "magical school" books looking for a more modern, inclusive read and an atypical protagonist.

Temora Murphy lives in an immaculate house, with a controlling mother. The only other children she sees tease her for her size and shyness. To escape, she reads books about adventure and magic. Then, on her twelfth birthday, Temora makes a wish that will alter her life forever.

Temora Tempest is in Writungeard, a student at Lyfthelm Tower, but things aren't as well as the Literi would have them believe. Because Rider Marr is on the loose and it's up to Temora and her friends to uncover his sinister plans and protect the realm and the Dreamers.



## LAST CHANCE JOEY

Meredith Resce

9781761112614 | Paperback

RHIZA EDGE

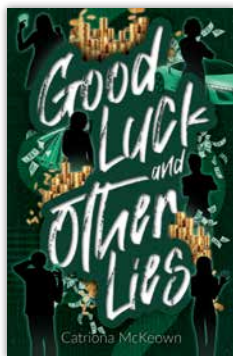
**OCT 2025** | 248pp

62,500 words | 13+ years

AU \$19.99 | NZ \$21.99

**Can Joey turn his life around or will his past follow him?**

Expelled from three schools, Joey's been sent to the country to help an old man recovering from an accident. No phone, no wi-fi, no friends. He doesn't know how he'll cope. Except that Young Harry might just be the best friend he's ever had, even if he's eighty-five. Can Joey find acceptance in a small town that views him as an outsider and has never accepted Harry? Or will his past follow him?



## GOOD LUCK AND OTHER LIES

Catriona McKeown

9781761111969 | Paperback

RHIZA EDGE

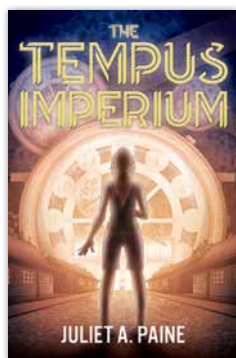
**JUN 2025** | 260pp

70,000 words | 13+ years

AU \$21.99 | NZ \$22.99

**A heart-pounding tale of moral reckoning.**

Imagine being one of six highschoolers who win 50 million-dollars. What would you buy first? The latest phone? A fancy car? Cassie and her friends get to do exactly that—until they find their lives spiralling into a web of secrets, deception, and danger. Past suspicions are renewed, blurring the truth, and they are left struggling to protect each other from the outside world that threatens to take away their newfound freedom.



## THE TEMPUS IMPERIUM

Juliet A. Paine

9781761111648 | Paperback

WOMBAT BOOKS

**AUG 2024** | 312pp

80,000 words | 13+ years

AU \$22.99 | NZ \$26.99

***The end justifies the means. The many over the few. Time travel has rules, but what happens when you break one?***

When 17-year-old Charlie's grandmother is murdered, she's plunged into the world of the Temporal Sinistrum – a secretive organisation of time travellers tasked with maintaining the historical timeline. Her grandmother was once one of their star agents, and Charlie must step into her shoes and solve the mystery of her death.



## SUMMER CHANGE

Melissa Wray

9781761111211 | Paperback

RHIZA EDGE

**OCT 2023** | 240pp

60,000 words | 14 to 18 years

AU \$19.99 | NZ \$19.99

**Shae's world will never be the same again by summer's end.**

A secret. A holiday. A Summer like never before. Shae knows her parents are keeping something from her and is determined to find out what. But nothing can prepare her for what they are hiding.

A coming-of-age story about 17-year-old Shae who is learning that relationships, deception, secrets and love can all blend together and change everything.



## KEEPER OF THE ARCHIVES

Lynne Stringer

9781761111563 | Paperback

RHIZA EDGE

SEP 2024 | 256pp

70,000 words | 14+ years

AU \$22.99 | NZ \$26.99

**What if they can't stop Izrod? Will his crimes mean the end of Sendirian City?**

After their home in Sendirian City burns to cinders, Eden Fittell gets a job to support her family. But the city is being stalked by the freakish Izrod, who is kidnapping people off the street. When Eden starts work at the government's Archives, will she be safe?



## SIGNAL ERASED

Adele Jones

9781761111433 | Paperback

RHIZA EDGE

APR 2024 | 224pp

60,000 words | 13 to 18 years

AU \$19.99 | NZ \$22.99

**Unseen and unheard, Anna knows time is running short.**

People say Anna Faraday's singing changes them, but she never imagined this to be literal. When the most romantic night of her life turns to disaster, she is forced to sing in a secret frequency-based physics experiment that goes wrong and is left fading from existence. Desperate, she seeks help from the last guy she ever thought she'd ask.



## INTEGRATE

Adele Jones

9781761110115 | Paperback

RHIZA EDGE

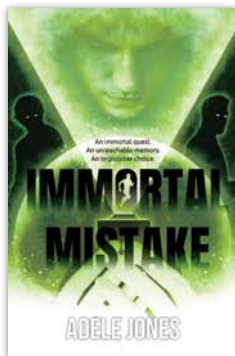
SEP 2023 | 228pp

13+ years

AU \$19.99 | NZ \$24.99

**Trust the science—unless your life depends on it.**

Blaine had a death sentence until a revolutionary gene therapy changed his life. During an unexpected post-treatment appointment, he is held against his will and labelled an illegal GMO. Subjected to constant tests, refused contact with his parents and deprived of vital medication, Blaine wants answers. Blaine, now a fugitive in a failing body, must find the professor behind his therapy. But time is running out. Fast.



## IMMORTAL MISTAKE

Adele Jones

9781761110085 | Paperback

RHIZA EDGE | AUG 2023

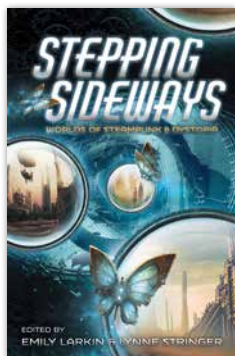
512pp | 180,000 words

13 to 18 years

AU \$19.99 | NZ \$19.99

**A world of forced experimentation in a quest for immortality and control.**

Rennie's parents fight, mostly about him being the biggest mistake of their lives. When a night of domestic turmoil puts his mother in hospital, Rennie stays with his half-brother's family. He spots a stranger with bionic powers unearthing a high-tech vault in the backyard. When Rennie secures the vault's top-secret contents, he's left with terrifying dreams, fragmented memories and a time gap he can't explain.



## STEPPING SIDeways

Edited by Emily Larkin & Lynne Stringer

978176111785 | Paperback  
RHIZA EDGE  
OCT 2024 | 220pp  
60,000 words | 12+ years  
AU \$18.99 | NZ \$21.99

12 short stories await in this steampunk and dystopian anthology, sure to transport you into worlds of danger and wonder.

A circus that is not all it seems. A monster ... and opportunity ... waits in ocean mists. A friendship is out of time. A group of kids escape scavenger dogs in a brutal world. A water sprite is far from home. And a machine generates romance.



## CROSSED SPACES

Edited by Lynne Stringer & R. A. Stephens

9781761110283 | Paperback  
RHIZA EDGE | MAR 2021  
240pp | 67,000 words  
13+ years | AU \$16.99

17 short stories where humanity is pushed to its limit and forced to question what is most important in life.

A clockmaker fixes a time machine to help a cursed lady. A boy's whole life changes when his friend writes in a mysterious notebook. The crew aboard a settlement spaceship discover that sleeping passengers have gone missing.



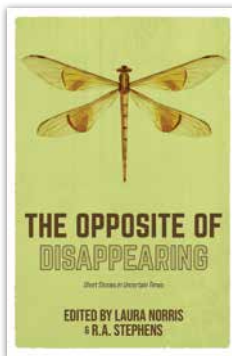
## DUST MAKERS

Edited by Penny Jaye & R. A. Stephens

9781761111006 | Paperback  
RHIZA EDGE  
OCT 2022 | 160pp  
40,000 words | 13+ years  
AU \$19.99 | NZ \$22.99

13 short stories that tackle themes of sustainability, caring for the environment, and the legacy we leave for one another.

With a focus on simple sustainability, care for the environment and for each other, these stories consider the impact we have on the spaces we live in and the legacy we leave for the future.



## THE OPPOSITE OF DISAPPEARING

Edited by Laura Norris & R. A. Stephens

9781761110290 | Paperback  
RHIZA EDGE | SEP 2021  
176pp | 40,000 words  
13+ years | AU \$16.99

14 short stories that explore connectivity, resilience, grief and the small ways to navigate the uncertainties of life.

A couple wakes to a day where the sun refuses to rise. Two housemates, reeling from loss, are saddled with the care of a pot plant. A new girl attempts to include herself in the worst known environment: a new school. A girl, lost in time, adapts to the new normal.



## MEMPHIS GRACE

Catriona McKeown  
9781925563719 | Paperback  
RHIZA EDGE  
OCT 2019 | 240pp  
80,000 words | 15+ years  
AU \$19.99 | NZ \$24.99

Serious issues like rape and sexual assault dealt with a gentle yet realistic way.

Graceland finds herself noticed by Cooper Dally, popular boy and Mikaela's ex-boyfriend. Now she's the centre of attention. Graceland is finally changing her stars. But Cooper has expectations Graceland can't meet. And when the truth behind Mikaela leaving comes out, Graceland realises Cooper might not be the guy she thought he was.

- Winner of the Family Therapy Association of New Zealand Older Readers 2020



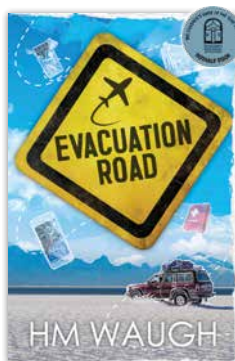
## VERINDON

Lynne Stringer  
9781761111044 | Paperback  
RHIZA EDGE  
JUL 2023 | 512pp  
180,000 words | 14+ years  
AU \$26.99 | NZ \$28.99

Sarah Fenhardt thinks she's human, but her real home is a galaxy away.

Sarah Fenhardt is living an ordinary life in high school, trying to hide her crush on Dan Bradfield, who is dating her best friend. But when tragedy strikes, her life is turned upside down.

Sarah is desperate to uncover the truth, but it takes her to another galaxy and changes everything she believes about who she is.



## EVACUATION ROAD

HM Waugh  
9781761110351 | Paperback  
RHIZA EDGE  
AUG 2021 | 268pp  
70,000 words | 13+ years  
AU \$19.99 | NZ \$24.99

The chase is on. This is the race for the last flight home.

Eva is far from home when everything goes wrong. And then it gets even worse. Her evacuation bus leaves her stranded with classmates she barely knows. The chase is on. But South America is big, and the old rules are changing quickly. This is the road trip Eva never knew she needed. This is the race for the last flight home.

- Notable book for the CBCA Book of the Year Awards 2022.

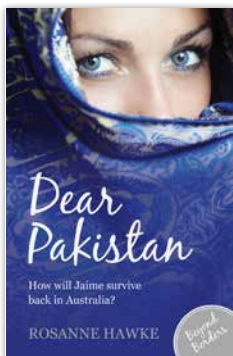


## WITHIN THE WARD

Emily Larkin  
9781761110221 | Paperback  
RHIZA EDGE  
OCT 2021 | 292pp  
80,000 words | 15+ years  
AU \$19.99 | NZ \$24.99

*Within the Ward* deals with mental health in a dystopian future.

17-year-old Paige Newell has never fit in. When her best friend dies, she's ready to end it all. Then she's admitted to Raydale State Hospital and immersed in a dream reality called 'the Journey'. If patients finish the Journey, they can go home. Paige soon discovers dark forces within the hospital, and that the dream reality is the stuff of nightmares. Can the patients escape the ward? And can Paige find reasons to live?

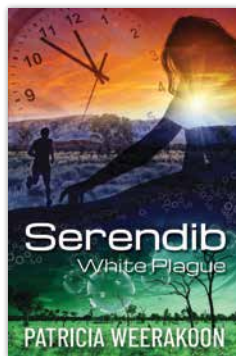


## DEAR PAKISTAN

Rosanne Hawke  
9781925139549 | Paperback  
RHIZA EDGE  
JUN 2016 | 180pp  
12+ years  
AU \$16.99

This is a story of living beyond borders, and discovering the gift of adapting to new cultures, especially one's own.

Jaime Richards lived most of her life in Pakistan and returning to Australia seems like another planet compared to the country she has left behind. Here in Australia, boys try to kiss her, men wear shorts and everyone says 'cool' all the time. How will she ever know the right things to say or do or wear? After all, this is meant to be her own culture.

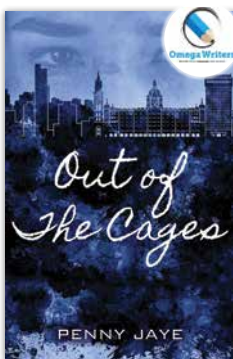


## SERENDIB: WHITE PLAGUE

Patricia Weerakoon  
9781761111051 | Paperback  
RHIZA EDGE  
OCT 2022 | 256pp  
80,000 words | 14+ years  
AU \$22.99 | NZ \$29.99

A world divided by race and reeling from a super-virus only infecting one side. Can they find healing and harmony?

The world of 2030 teeters on the brink of disaster. A super-spreading virus is damaging the brains people of one particular race. White people. To find a cure in time to save the world, young Stephen has to accept the help of dark-skinned Ally, a telekinetic girl from 2131. But he must first show himself worthy. And this may kill him.



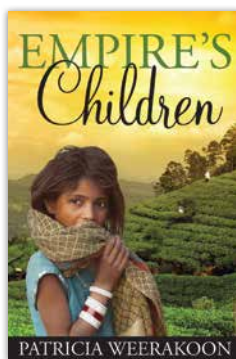
## OUT OF THE CAGES

Penny Jaye  
9781925563412 | Paperback  
RHIZA EDGE  
JAN 2018 | 272pp  
71,000 words | 15+ years  
AU \$19.99 | NZ \$24.99

*"Sometimes it's ourselves we need to trust again..."*

Fifteen-year-old Meena has given up all hope of ever escaping the brothel. When a botched police raid offers her a chance at freedom, Meena must face the truth of her past. As she attempts to piece her life back together, the memories she has buried deep begin to resurface. Meena realises escaping the brothel is only the beginning of what it means to be free.

- Winner of Young Adult Fiction of the 2019 CALEB Prize.

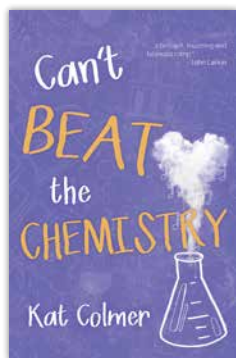


## EMPIRE'S CHILDREN

Patricia Weerakoon  
9781925139303 | Paperback  
RHIZA PRESS  
JAN 2015 | 233pp  
90,000 words | 15+ years  
AU \$24.99 | NZ \$29.99

On the Sri Lankan tea fields in particular, the English are masters.

Tragedy, grief and separation threaten Shiro and shackle Lakshmi in the bondage of class distinction. When Anthony takes over management of the plantation, he discovers the truth about his family's dealings with the locals. Can Anthony's love of justice set right the wrongs of the past?



## CAN'T BEAT THE CHEMISTRY

Kat Colmer

9781925563696 | Paperback

RHIZA EDGE

APR 2019 | 260pp

77,000 words | 13+ years

AU \$19.99 | NZ \$24.99

*“a brilliant, touching and hilarious romp.”*

- John Larkin

There are only two things MJ wants in her final year of high school: 1) Glowing grades and ... 2) to convince Jason they'd be a winning team outside the science lab as well as in. Tutoring deadbeat drummer, Luke, isn't part of the plan. But MJ learns that she could be tutored in a few life lessons too. Sometimes you can't beat the chemistry.



## WISH ME GONE

D. J. Blackmore

9781761111051 | Paperback

RHIZA EDGE

SEP 2022 | 256pp

70,000 words | 13+ years

AU \$19.99 | NZ \$19.99

*Four lives in Australia become intertwined by one orchard, as they all try to find a place they call home.*

Up close, the heritage listed house is nothing but a beautiful disaster, but while there are acres of orange trees to lose herself amongst, Isabella realises there's no escaping the new school. But when intolerance towards Damaska and her family—whom Isabella's family has hired to help—opens the homestead gates, the threat to both families becomes real.



## GIRL RUNNING, BOY FALLING

Kate Gordon

9781925563528 | Paperback

RHIZA EDGE

OCT 2018 | 236pp

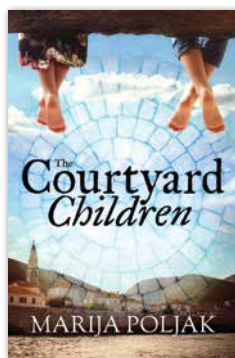
50,000 words | 15+ years

AU \$17.99 | NZ \$21.99

*A raw read about a girl and boy— who are beautifully flawed.*

Sixteen-year-old Therese lives in a small town on a small island. Her Aunt Kath calls her Tiger. Her friends call her Resey. The boy she loves calls her Champ. She has always had her feet on the ground. Running through high school, but someone in her life is about to fall ... And when he does, her perfect world falls with him.

- Notable for the CBCA Book of the Year Awards 2019.



## THE COURTYARD CHILDREN

Marija Poljak

9781925563962 | Paperback

RHIZA EDGE

OCT 2020 | 224pp

60,000 words | 12+ years

AU \$16.99 | NZ \$20.99

*Living is hard, yet life is sweet. My place may have forgotten me, but I am still here.*

Mileva was raised on the values of brotherhood and unity. Marko was born into a family where love is earned and was branded early on as a lost cause. Despite their differences, the two grow to become best friends. Yet as the 1990s approach, Yugoslavia begins to crumble and ethnic tensions arise. No longer inseparable, their different backgrounds force Mileva and Marko apart.

# RHIZA SHORTS

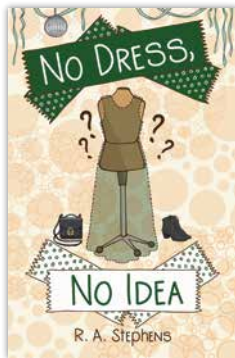


## **SKIN** Deborah Kelly

9781761112454 | Paperback  
RHIZA EDGE | **APR 2025**  
128pp | 17,000 words  
AU \$14.99 | NZ \$16.99  
Reading age of 9+,  
Interest age 13+

Is our worth more  
than skin deep?

When a freckle on Lexie Collins's cheek turns out to be a rare kind of melanoma, she's left with a big, ugly scar across one cheek. She'd just earned a spot in the state finals for public speaking, but her confidence has vanished. She feels ugly and different from all her friends. When a chance encounter turns into an unexpected friendship, Lexie's feelings about her scar—and herself—slowly begin to change.

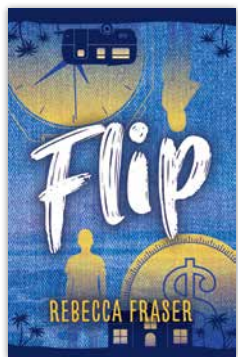


## **NO DRESS, NO IDEA** R. A. Stephens

9781761112485 | Paperback  
RHIZA EDGE | **JUN 2025**  
128pp | 17,000 words  
AU \$14.99 | NZ \$16.99  
Reading age of 10 +,  
Interest age 13+

Will a fashion fail  
ruin Tarni's perfect  
formal?

Graduation is just over a year away, but all Tarni can think about is her Year 12 formal. Tarni's perfect dress is \$950, and she'll have to save every cent to get it. But by the time she's saved enough money, the dress has disappeared! Can she find her perfect dress in the right size? And what will she do when she graduates?



## **FLIP** Rebecca Fraser

9781761112898 | Paperback  
RHIZA EDGE | **SEP 2025**  
120pp | 16,440 words  
AU \$14.99 | NZ \$16.99  
Reading age of 10 +,  
Interest age 13+

Good luck is hard to  
find and now Denim  
has a tough decision  
to make.

Denim wishes he could flip his life, just like the vintage items he finds and sells online. When he and his dad arrive in a small town where everyone knows each other, he feels more of a misfit than ever and nothing goes right in school. Then he meets Mina and things start to look a little brighter. But one of his flips goes horribly wrong and it could ruin their friendship forever. Can he flip it back?



## **LIKE, COMMENT, SUBSCRIBE?** Kat Ost

9781761112577 | Paperback  
RHIZA EDGE | **AUG 2025**  
128pp | 17,000 words  
AU \$14.99 | NZ \$16.99  
Reading age of 10 +,  
Interest age 13+

Becca must choose:  
her online life, or the  
real-life she craves.

Becca has been the face of @BeccaBakes since she was old enough to hold a wooden spoon. Lately, though, Becca's followers have been pointing out that she's no longer a cute toddler. When she forms an unexpected friendship, she has to decide if she continues to live the 'online' life she no longer wants or braves a taste of the 'real' life she so desperately craves.

# RHIZA SHORTS



## **RHIZA SHORTS** THE DAY THE BRIDGE FELL

Coral Vass

9781761112799 | Paperback

RHIZA EDGE | **OCT 2025**

124pp | 17,170 words

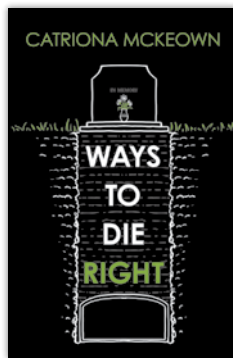
AU \$14.99 | NZ \$16.99

Reading age of 10 +,

Interest age 13+

**Two friends wrestle with a tragedy that changes their lives.**

Obsessed with the construction of Melbourne's new West Gate Bridge, where his father works, Ray Johnston overhears a conversation about a fault in the bridge. He confides in his father, who insists that he keep quiet about it. Ray is devastated when he hears sirens coming from the worksite. The bridge has fallen, taking several workers with it. Is his dad one of them?



## **RHIZA SHORTS** WAYS TO DIE RIGHT

Catriona McKeown

9781761112515 | Paperback

RHIZA EDGE | **MAY 2025**

128pp | 17,000 words

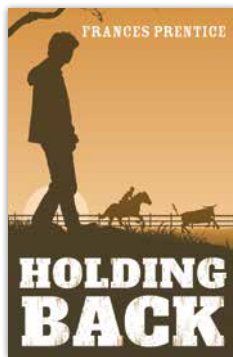
AU \$14.99 | NZ \$16.99

Reading age of 10 +,

Interest age 15+

**Grieving Joel defends his beliefs in a public debate against a rival.**

With his mum battling cancer and his sister's grave site to care for, death is a topic never far from Joel's mind. When he learns how bad traditional burials are for the environment, he decides to teach the world about green burials. When Trent, Joel's arch nemesis, takes it upon himself to argue the opposite, Joel must learn to face his fears and make his voice heard.



## **RHIZA SHORTS** HOLDING BACK

Frances Prentice

9781761112546 | Paperback

RHIZA EDGE | **JUL 2025**

128pp | 17,000 words

AU \$14.99 | NZ \$16.99

Reading age of 10 +,

Interest age 14+

**To make a change you have to stop holding yourself back.**

Nick's life revolves around his family farm, homeschooling and campdrafting events. His sister has no trouble making friends wherever she goes, but Nick has always held back. After joining his sister at the local swim squad, Nick discovers his competitive drive. Will he find someone to connect with? Will his newfound confidence help him at the next campdraft?

## WHAT ARE RHIZA SHORTS?

- ▶ Engaging and relatable stories written for teenagers
- ▶ Simpler language with plots that are easier to follow
- ▶ Shorter sentences and paragraphs
- ▶ Lighter page density that gives a sense of achievement

Carefully crafted for all readers, from struggling or reluctant readers to busy teens looking for a quick impactful read.

Find the full list of Rhiza Shorts on our website:  
[wombathriza.com.au/rhiza-short](http://wombathriza.com.au/rhiza-short)

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Open to all budding Aussie authors aged 13 to 19  
who are truly interested in kick-starting their writing career in Australia.

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Entrants must submit their manuscript and a cover letter outlining what they hope to achieve as an author.

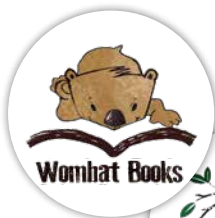
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