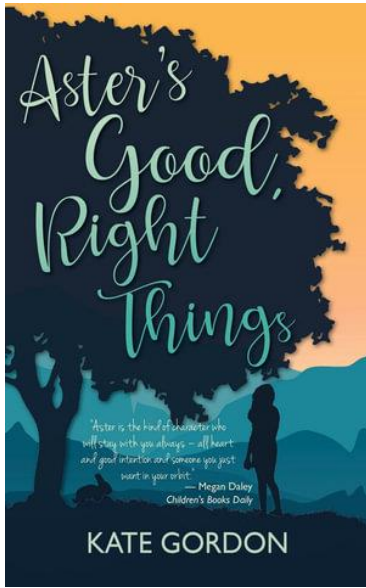


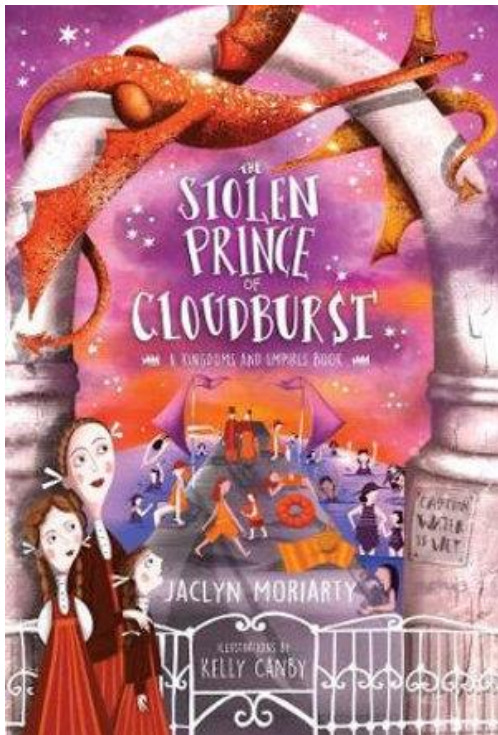
CBCA Shortlist 2021

Book of the Year: Younger Readers



Aster attends a school for gifted kids, but she doesn't think she's special at all. If she was, her mother wouldn't have left. And if she isn't careful, everyone else will leave her too.

Each day Aster must do a good, right thing - a challenge she sets herself, to make someone else's life better. Nobody can know about her 'things', because then they won't count. And if she doesn't do them, she knows everything will go wrong. Then she meets Xavier. He wears princess pajamas and has his own kind of special missions to make life better. When they do these missions together, Aster feels free...but if she stops doing her good, right things will everything fall apart?



A magical tale of mystery and adventure that proves that sometimes even ordinary middle children can be heroes, from the bestselling author of *The Extremely Inconvenient Adventures of Bronte Mettlestone* and the award-winning *The Slightly Alarming Tale of the Whispering Wars*.

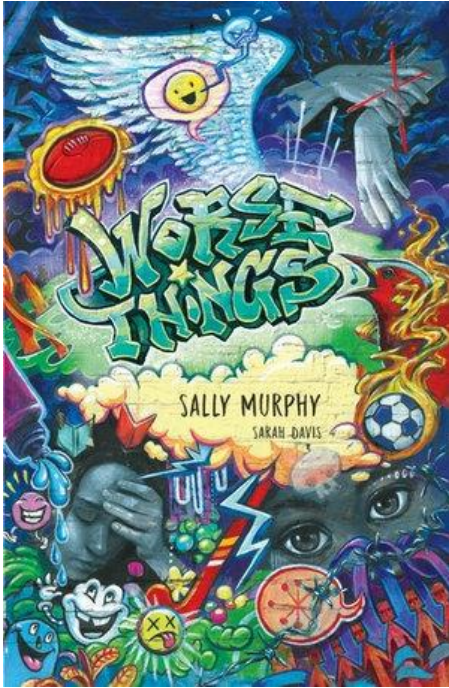
Long ago, the little Prince of Cloudburst was stolen from the seashore by a Water Sprite. Now, ten years later, the prince has found his way home. The King and Queen are planning the biggest party in their Kingdom's history to welcome him.

Meanwhile, on the other side of the Kingdoms and Empires, Esther Mettlestone-Staranise is looking forward to another year at Katherine Valley Boarding School. But she arrives to find a number of strange and unsettling changes. For one, her new teacher is rumoured to be an Ogre. Two mysterious students have joined the school, and one of Esther's classmates is an undercover Spellbinder. Most disturbingly, the mountains surrounding the school - usually a delight of glaciers, teashops, lakes and Faeries - are now crowded with wicked Shadow Mages.

As secrets and dangers escalate, Esther must find the answers to several puzzles. Why is her teacher behaving so oddly? Which of Esther's classmates is the Spellbinder, and can they really protect the school from gathering hordes of Shadow Mages? Could the Stolen Prince of Cloudburst be connected?

How can Esther - who is not talented like her sisters, nor an adventurer like her cousin, but just Esther - save her family, her school and possibly her entire world?

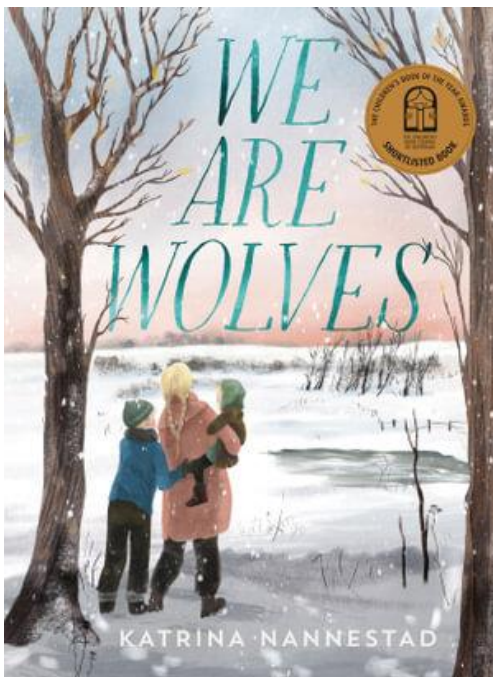
CBCA Shortlist 2021



Worse Things is a story about connections, the ways they are made, and what happens when they are lost or illusive, from the award-winning author of Pearl Verses the World and Toppling.

Worse Things follows the lives of three main characters: Blake, an Aussie Rules football player who suffers a devastating injury; Jolene, a hockey player who hates the game and is grieving over the recent death of her father; and Amed, a soccer-loving, non-English speaking orphan who feels like an outsider since arriving in Australia after being raised in a refugee camp.

A touching and inspirational story about connections and the things that bind us all.



THE POWERFUL NEW NOVEL FROM AWARD-WINNING AUSTRALIAN WRITER KATRINA NANNESTAD

Sometimes it's good to be wild.

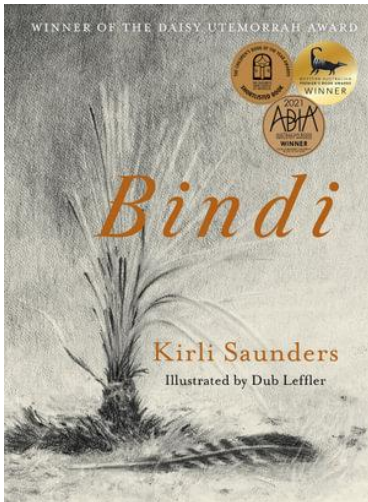
When the Russian Army marches into East Prussia at the end of the war, the Wolf family must flee. Liesl, Otto and their baby sister Mia find themselves lost and alone, in a blizzard, in the middle of a war zone. Liesl has promised Mama that she will keep her brother and sister safe.

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

Sometimes to survive, you must become a wolf.

Bestselling author Katrina Nannestad returns with her most masterful novel yet - a book to crack open your heart, a book to light you up inside, a book to love.

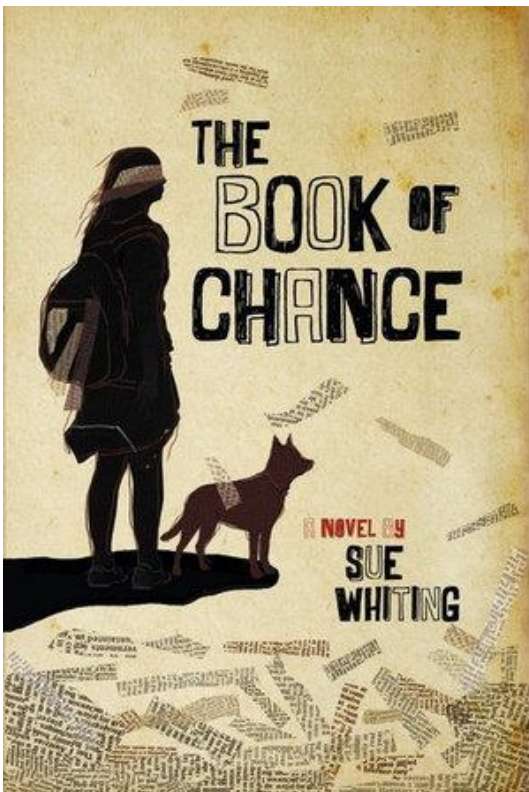
CBCA Shortlist 2021



Meet 11-year-old Bindi. She's not really into maths but LOVES art class and playing hockey. Her absolute FAVOURITE thing is adventuring outside with friends or her horse, Nell.

A new year starts like normal—school, family, hockey, dancing. But this year hasn't gone to plan! There's a big art assignment, a drought, a broken wrist AND the biggest bushfires her town has ever seen!

Bindi is a verse novel for mid-upper primary students. Written 'for those who plant trees', Bindi explores climate, bushfires, and healing. Written from the point of view of 11-year-old, Bindi and her friends on Gundungurra Country.



Chance is a black-and-white thinker until she realises that sometimes there are shades of grey.

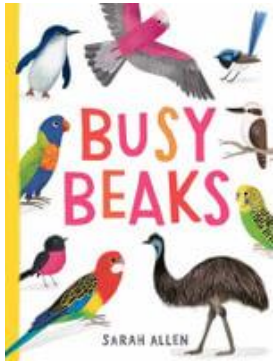
Chance is in Year 7 and thinks she has it all - a loving mother, dog Tiges, best friend and almost-sister next door. But when a reality TV team makes over her house, she discovers newspaper clippings from the past that cause her to question the world as she knows it and everyone in it. Then she finds herself caught between two realities, identities and worlds. Face-to-face with the truth, Chance has a very difficult decision to make, which almost splits her in two. This powerful story explores what is true and what is fake in today's world. And while Chance is all about the truth, she ponders whether "Maybe being truthful was really just a big lie." Book Features:

A celebration of the strong bond between two families - one black, one white - and an exploration of the meaning of 'family'.

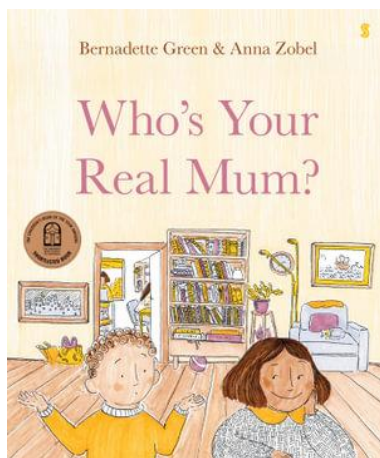
Sue Whiting captivates her growing audience once again with another realistic story that ends with a mysterious twist. Central themes include: the importance of the bond between humans and animals; social media; reality TV; investigative journalism; and family secrets.

CBCA Shortlist 2021

Book of the Year: Early Childhood



Spend a day with Australia's most vibrant and unique feathered friends. Full of splashing shorebirds, clattering cockatoos, parading penguins and greedy galahs, *Busy Beaks* is the perfect introduction to birds of all shapes and sizes.

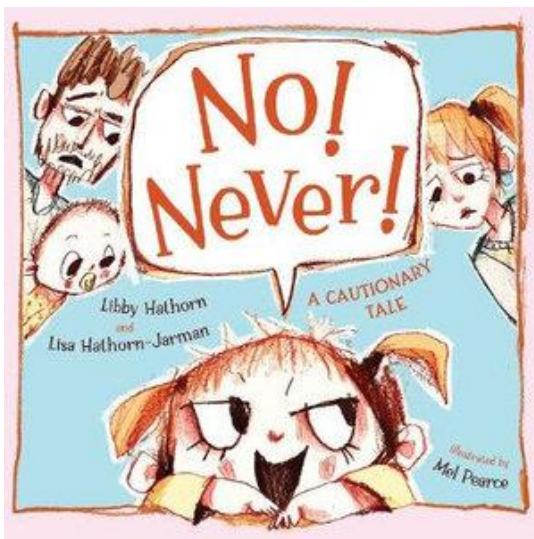


A beautifully illustrated story, written with a light and humorous touch, that celebrates nontraditional families and captures exactly what lies at the heart of family life - love.

'Elvi, which one is your mum?'
'They're both my mums.'
'But which one's your real mum?'

When Nicholas wants to know which of Elvi's two mums is her real mum, she gives him lots of clues. Her real mum is a circus performer, and a pirate, and she even teaches spiders the art of web.

But Nicholas still can't work it out! Luckily, Elvi knows just how to explain it to her friend ...



A cautionary tale about a little girl who drives her parents up the wall when she starts answering 'No! Never!' to all their requests - and what happens when the tables are turned on her.

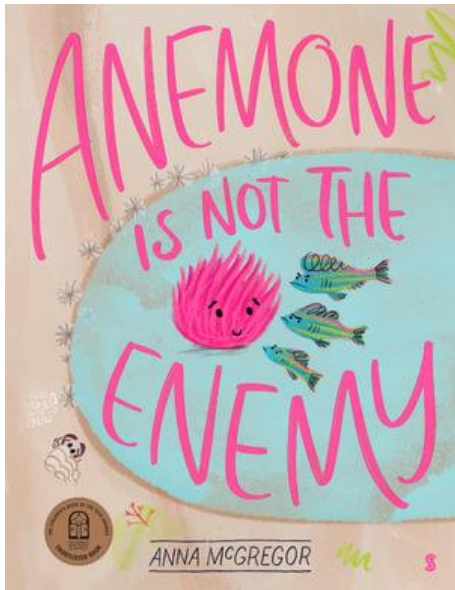
There was a child,
The sweetest ever,
Until she learned these words:
'NO! NEVER!'

Georgie is a sweet little girl who always makes her parents happy... until she discovers one powerful phrase: No! Never!

It suddenly becomes her answer to every request, from tidying up her toys to going to bed. Her parents are at their wits end, but what happens when they decide to try saying No! Never! themselves?

A lovely, lively look at the Terrible Twos (or Threes, or Fours, or Fives...) from mother-daughter team Libby Hathorn and Lisa Hathorn-Jarman, with debut illustrator Mel Pearce. Perfect for any parent dealing with tantrums, defiant behaviour or communication issues.

CBCA Shortlist 2021



Anemone lives alone in the rock pool. The tide comes in and the tide goes out.

All Anemone wants is a friend, but friends are hard to make when you accidentally sting everyone who comes near you.

Perhaps Clownfish has a solution to the problem ...



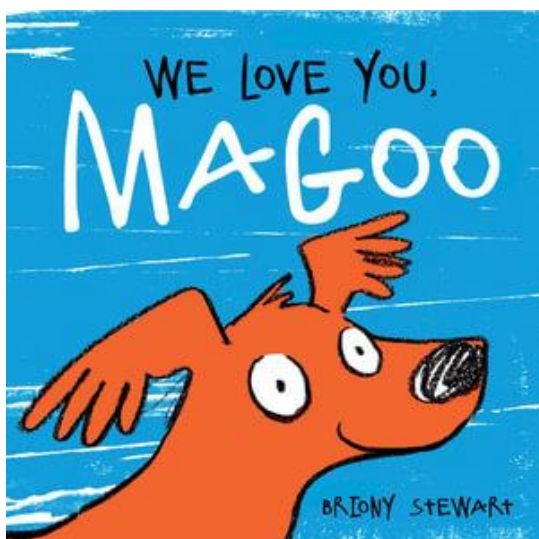
A funny, warm and reassuring story from the internationally acclaimed creator of I Just Ate My Friend and Baz & Benz.

Bear can't sleep.

Did you hear that? Did you feel that? What was it?

It wasn't a hungry giant or a blood-sucking spider or a fire-breathing dragon because there is NO SUCH THING...

Is there?



Magoo has his own ideas about what a dog should do – in the kitchen, in the car, at dinnertime and bedtime! But there are so many rules! So many things a dog can't do.

But wait! Magoo, THIS is for you...

Silly dogoo, we do love you!

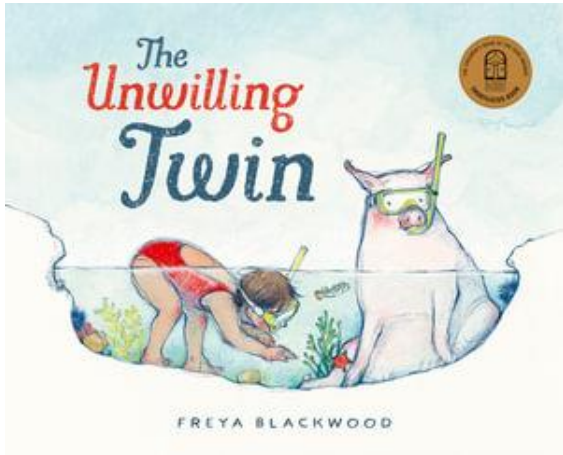
A perfect read-aloud picture book that captures Magoo's energy and emotion in every line.

A classic in the making – joyous and playful, this will be read again and again. Pitched perfectly at the preschooler, just learning the rules who loves being the boss.

Gorgeous illustrations and a rhyming text that's a delight to read out loud.

CBCA Shortlist 2021

Picture Book of the Year



THE NEW PICTURE BOOK FROM SEVEN-TIME CBCA BOOK OF THE YEAR WINNER FREYA BLACKWOOD

Jules and George are the same in every way.

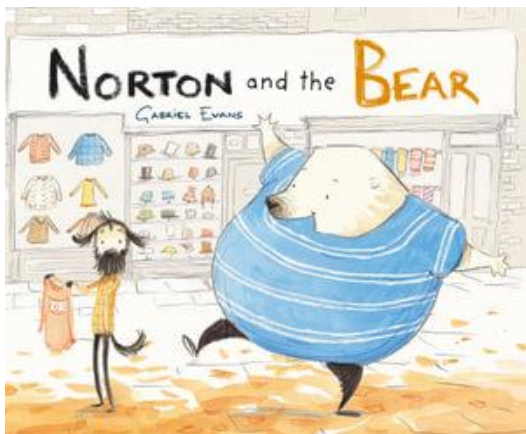
It is quite impossible to tell them apart.

Like all twins, Jules and George do everything together. But after a long, hot day at the beach, even twins sometimes disagree ...

From multi-award-winning picture book creator Freya Blackwood comes a cheeky and charming story about the ups and downs of sibling love.



Quokka did not like being cute. Not one bit. The romping, stomping, chomping tale of one stubbornly adorable marsupial.



Is imitation the sincerest form of flattery? Or is it just annoying?

This irresistible read-aloud helps children deal with the sensitive topics of conformity, individuality and belonging in an accessible, kid-friendly way.

Whether you're more like Norton or the bear, this story will show you that there's room for all kinds of creative expression.

CBCA Shortlist 2021

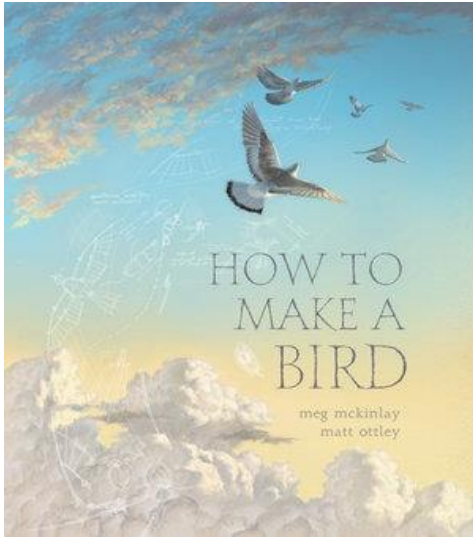
Ellie's Dragon



BOB GRAHAM

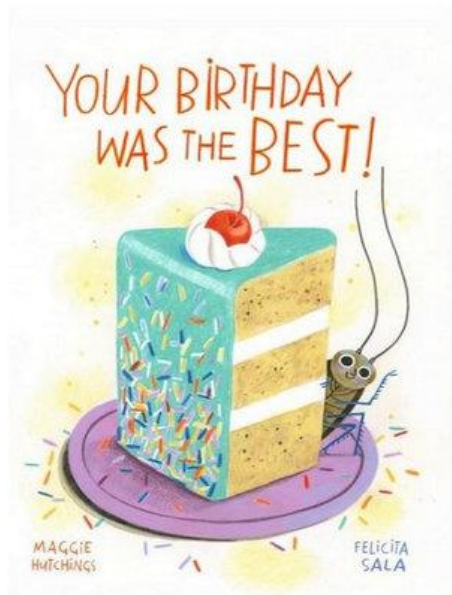
No friendship is imaginary.

When Ellie is very little, she finds a newborn dragon fresh from the egg on a supermarket shelf, and calls him Scratch. He is quite the sweetest thing she has ever seen! From that day on, Ellie and Scratch do everything together. Ellie's mum and her teacher can't see her fiery friend, but all her friends can – and, over the years, Ellie's dragon grows to be big, house-trained, and very affectionate. And Ellie is growing, too... A moving story about the wonders of imagination and the nature of growing up from one of Australia's most revered bookmakers.



Extraordinary imagery and rich language spark the reader's imagination as they enter the creative world of a young girl.

From award-winning author Meg McKinlay and celebrated artist Matt Ottley comes a moving and visually stunning picture book that celebrates the transformative power of the creative process from inception through recognition to celebration and releasing into the world. We shadow the protagonist as she contemplates the blue print of an idea, collects the things that inspire from the natural world to shape a bird. And breathes life into it before letting it fly free. It shows how small things, combined with a little imagination and a steady heart, can transform into works of magic.



From the author of the best-selling Mermaid! and Unicorn! and one of the world's hottest new picture-book illustrators comes the story of a plucky young cockroach who gate-crashes a birthday party – with hilarious results.

Funny, silly and surprisingly cute, Your Birthday Was the BEST! is the perfect blend of downright gross and delightfully entertaining.

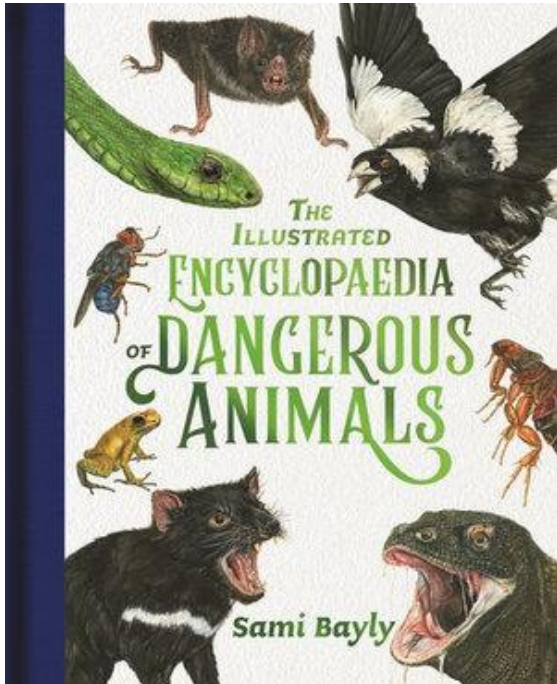
About the Author

Maggie is a counsellor, family-dispute mediator, writer and artist who spends her weekends covered in paint and scribbling lists that are never completed. She is a famously mad aunt, nanna and mother who talks to herself out loud and falls over a lot in the garden at her house in northern New South Wales.

Maggie writes stories with heart and soul for children and adults that encourage kindness, hope and resilience.

CBCA Shortlist 2021

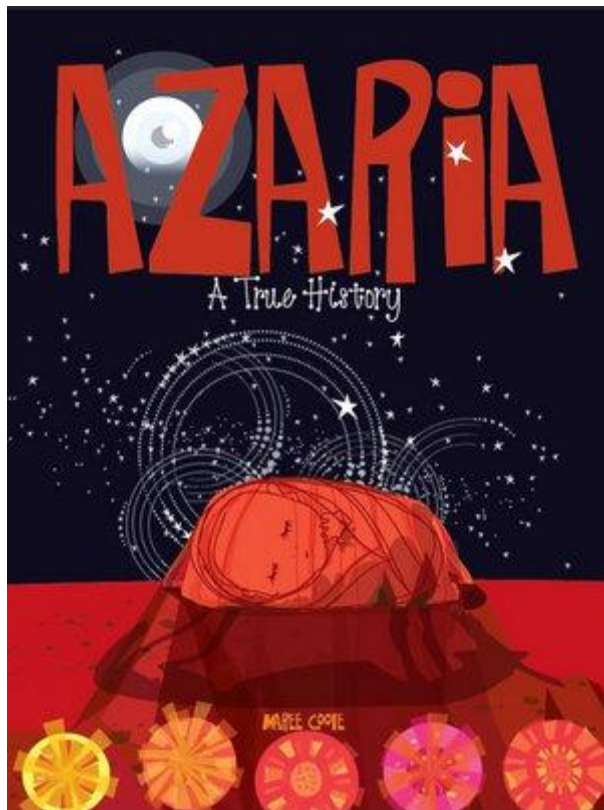
Eve Pownall Award (factual)



Dangerous animals get a bad rap, but this beautifully illustrated encyclopaedia helps us appreciate the incredible features of some of our more hair-raising animal species.

With more than sixty of the most deadly and dangerous animals from across the world to explore, every page of this beautifully illustrated volume is more eye-opening than the last. You will learn interesting facts about these fascinating species, (many of which you won't have even known were deadly) such as how they have adapted to survive and whether we should be threatened by these animals or appreciate them for their incredible features. Children and adults alike will pore over the breathtaking scientific illustrations of unusual animals from the geography cone snail to the wolverine, the Irukandji jellyfish to the slow loris, debating their relative dangerous features, learning about science and nature along the way.

This gorgeous hardcover book is illustrated in exquisite detail by award-winning author and illustrator, Sami Bayly. A brilliant companion to *The Illustrated Encyclopaedia of Ugly Animals*.



Where wild animals and people meet, tragedy can strike, because just like the big bad wolf, the dingo is not afraid of you and me.

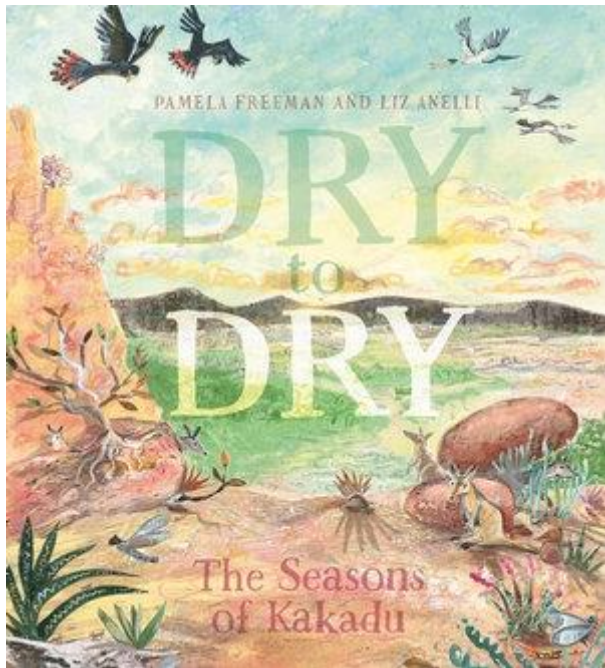
A beautifully illustrated non-fiction picture book that sensitively explores the collision of wilderness and civilisation, explains a famous miscarriage of justice, and examines the role of the media in history-telling, in an appropriate manner for children.

About the Author

One of the very first to identify the contemporary rise of Melbourne's cultural and place power, Maree Coote has won The Royal Historical Society of Victoria's Gold Prize for The Art of Being Melbourne. Her unique command of history, culture, art and design is made accessible for a wide variety of audiences, including children.

Coote was the first to create a children's picture book for Melbourne kids, *When You Go To Melbourne*. According to Philip Adams, "Melbourne never had a more ingenious ambassador." Coote's first book *The Melbourne Book: A History of Now* is in its fourth edition after 12+ years in print, and has been dubbed 'Melbourne's Bible'.

CBCA Shortlist 2021



This Nature Storybook follow-up to the award-winning Desert Lake is a stunningly illustrated and extraordinary story of the yearly weather cycle and attendant changing wildlife of Kakadu National Park, from the Dry to the Wet to the Dry again.

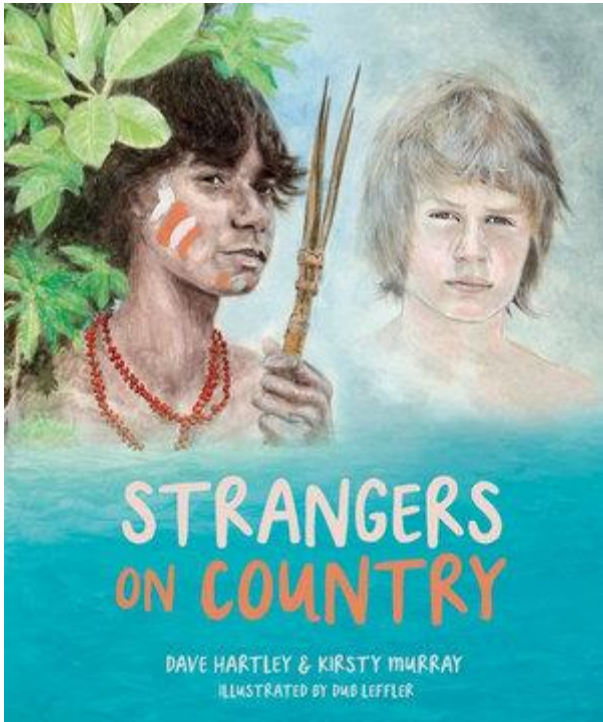
In the tropical wetlands and escarpments of Kakadu National Park, the seasons move from dry to wet to dry again. Those seasons have shaped the astonishing variety of plants, animals, birds, insects ... migratory birds by the thousands, grasshoppers and owls, lizards and turtles, fruit bats and spear grass. And, gliding past them all in the rivers and waterholes, the long, sinuous shapes of crocodiles ...

Book Features:

Beautifully written narrative that explores the unique story of one of Australia's most amazing landscapes.

Features lyrical narrative and well-researched facts by award-winning author Pamela Freeman.

Stunning original mixed media illustrations by Liz Anelli.



Giom, Anco and Duramboi are the names of just three young shipwreck survivors and convict escapees who were given refuge by Indigenous communities during the nineteenth century. No one knows exactly how many received sustenance from the local people, but there are some documented accounts of these experiences. Strangers on Country includes the stories of six Europeans and the people who cared for them.

To Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, the first castaways and runaway convicts that arrived in their homes must have appeared pretty scary. The strangers didn't speak their language and didn't understand their ways, but they were desperately in need of refuge. Despite their fears, the Indigenous hosts often treated the lost strangers with kindness, taking pity on them and giving them food and shelter. When they returned to live among white people, the castaways and convicts spoke fondly of the people who had rescued them.

Based on historical records each story in this book is told through two historical fiction narratives. The first is from the point of view of an Indigenous person who befriends the stranger in their land. The second is from the point of view of the castaway or convict who is given refuge. At the end of each chapter, there is a section of facts and information. Too often Australian history is told only from the point of view of the Europeans who sailed here from across the world.

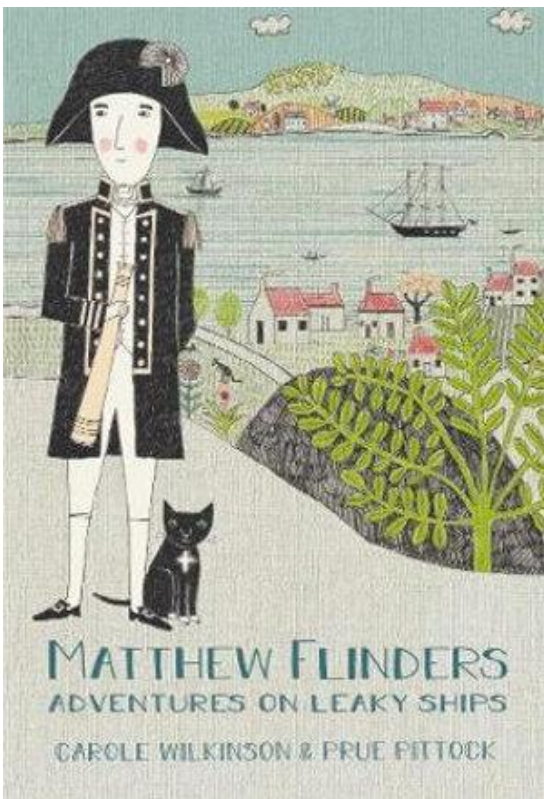
CBCA Shortlist 2021



Have you ever seen a fish that could do a handstand?

This is the story of a quirky and primitive little fish that is famous for two things: walking on its 'hands' (pectoral fins), and being the first marine fish anywhere in the world to be listed on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species. The Spotted Handfish has survived since the time of the dinosaurs — until now. Invasive sea stars, pollution and climate change mean that this unique Australian is in real trouble — raise your hand if you want to know more!

Hold On! Saving the Spotted Handfish is perfect for primary aged readers.



Matthew Flinders was a country boy who wanted to be a sailor. He lived at a time when ocean voyages took months, sometimes years. His life at sea was full of adventure and danger. He was the first to sail all the way around Australia. He drew the first complete map of the continent. Sailing was a dangerous business in Matthew's time that could end in shipwreck, disease or death. He wanted to make it safer for sailors by making his map as accurate as possible.

CBCA Shortlist 2021

CBCA Award for New Illustrator



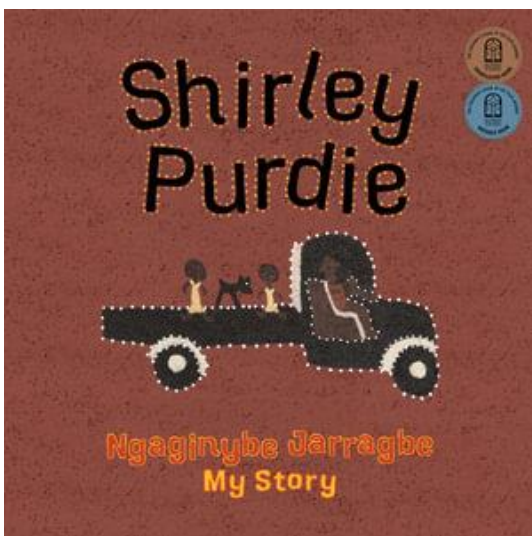
This lamp is enchanted and I am the genie. I'll grant all your wishes, but don't be a meanie...

When a friendly frog, a greedy rabbit and a robot with a short fuse discover a magic lamp, chaos follows...and friendship is found.



A flying boy and seven bees are chased by fleas, but an unexpected friendship forms.

Bryce McFee is an ordinary boy bored with washing the flea-ridden family dog. So, he escapes to his imagination and flies across the backyard with a dandelion and seven bees. Trouble strikes when a swarm of pesky fleas gives chase, threatening to ruin his adventure. Ultimately, an unlikely friendship is formed between the flying boy and the fleas. A fun rhyming story that exercises the imagination.



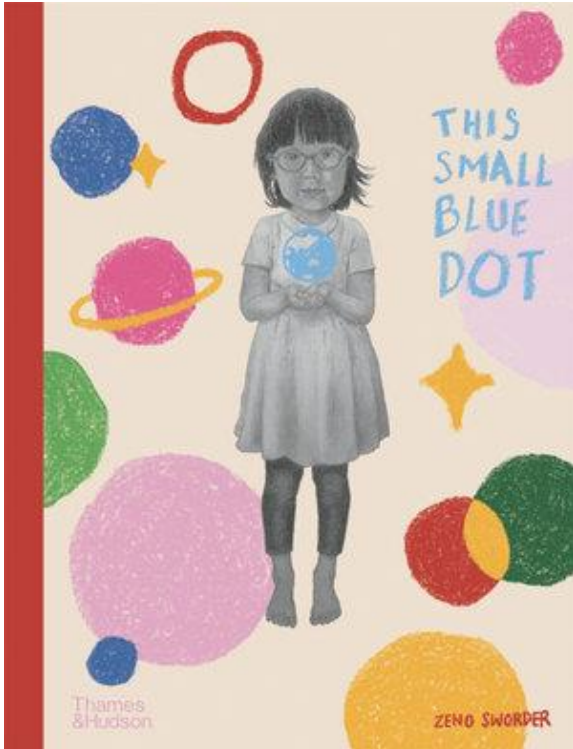
I am Shirley Purdie
This is my story
Ngayin-ga Birrmarriyan-nga
Berrembi jarragbe ngaginybe.

My mother shows me how to get bushtucker and she shows me how to paint.
Now I'm a famous artist.
My paintings are all over the world hanging in important places. Happy times.

Told in English and Gija, this is the story of Shirley Purdie, famous Gija artist, as told through her paintings, as part of the Ngaalim-Ngalimboorro Ngagenybe exhibition created for the 2018 National Portrait Gallery exhibition So Fine: Contemporary women artists make Australian history. The exhibition will be rehung, in Gallery 1, to coincide with the launch of My Story, along with a series of cultural engagement activities based on My Story.

This is the first book in the Kimberley Art Centre Series. The series focuses on developing the skills of Kimberley Aboriginal artists in children's picture book storytelling and illustration.

CBCA Shortlist 2021



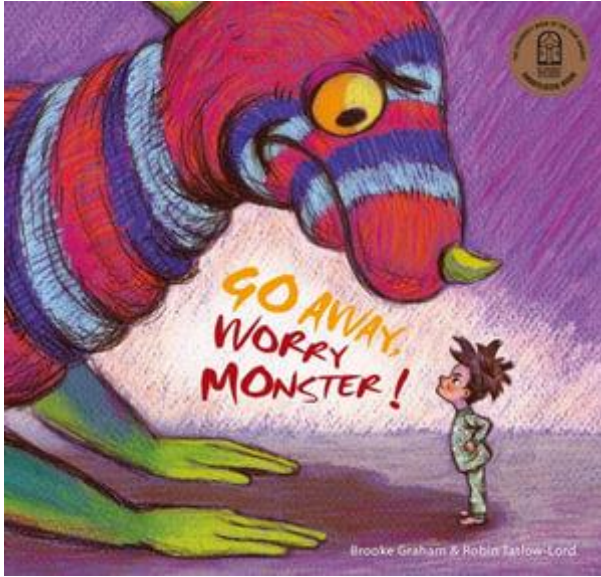
A young girl introduces the newest member of her family to the small wonders, big lessons and other important stuff that make being a child so special.

With a strong message of interconnectedness, hope and empowerment, *This Small Blue Dot* follows a little girl exploring the big and small things in life. From contemplating our place on this 'blue dot' to the best Italian, Chinese and Indian desserts, the book provides a broader, more inclusive view of who we are, where we come from and where our dreams may take us.

Delivering big lessons with playful humour, the precocious young narrator shares her take on nature and the environment, wisdom from elders, embracing difference, the power of imagination and broccoli. Through this character – loosely based on his eldest daughter, whose crayon drawings decorate the endpapers – Sworder channels the lessons he took from his Chinese grandmother and British father. 'Because my daughters would not grow up hearing their voices I wanted to pass on some part of who they were and what they had taught me ... In passing these lessons forward it was important to me to do so in the same spirit of generosity and fun that they gifted to me. There is a saying that you sail through life on a carpet woven from the love and wisdom of your ancestors. I benefited greatly from such a carpet and I made this book hoping that my daughters will as well.'

Richly illustrated with original pencil and crayon drawings that conjure up memories of childhood, *This Small Blue Dot* captures not only lessons on life but also the sense of fun and strangeness that comes with being a member of the human family on planet Earth.

CBCA Shortlist 2021



Worry Monster loves "helping" Archie worry, especially the night before he starts his new school. Archie feels so anxious that his head hurts, his tummy flutters and his heart pounds. He soon realizes the only way to feel better is to make Worry Monster go away. He does his belly breaths and faces facts to challenge his inner fears.

Children have the potential to engage and empathise with Archie and Worry Monster both through the text and the subtle gestures and fleeting emotions captured in the beautiful illustrations. Encouraging children to name their anxiety is an evidence-based, current strategy used by psychologists to assist children in separating themselves from their anxiety.

Go Away, Worry Monster gives children this and other useful strategies to cope, showing them how to make their own Worry Monsters leave during stressful periods of their lives, from starting or changing schools, to a change in family dynamics. Created by an author and illustrator passionate about helping children to cope with common emotional difficulties, this is an invaluable, life-changing resource for young children and their parents in guiding emotional development.