BEST BOOKS FOR SCHOOL



July-December 2025





A&U Learn





A&U Learn is a dedicated hub for educators, parents and caregivers that will assist you in nurturing a love for reading in children, whether in schools or at home.

Visit **A&U Learn** and dive into teachers' notes and reading group guides for a diverse range of books, curated lists on various topics, new release catalogues, fun activities and loads more.

So visit allenandunwin.com/learn and discover a wealth of teaching resources.

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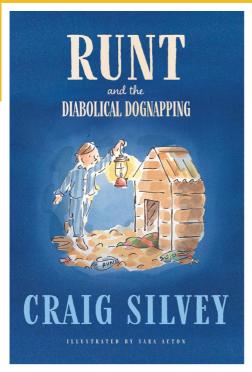
The books in this catalogue are available from your school supplier

The month of release for each title is indicated. Prices and publication dates are correct at time of printing but are subject to change without notice.

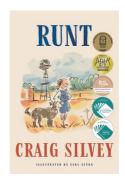
KEY

- Free downloadable Teacher Tips are available from the Allen & Unwin website
- AC Title meets the criteria of the Australian Curriculum
- GS Highly suitable for classroom discussion or units of work
- Free downloadable Teacher Notes, which include extensive information, teaching ideas and Curriculum links, are available from the Allen & Unwin website
- AS Activity Sheets
- RG Reading Group Notes

Fiction For All Ages







Also available • 9781761067846







Runt and the Diabolical Dognapping

Craig Silvey, illustrated by Sarah Acton

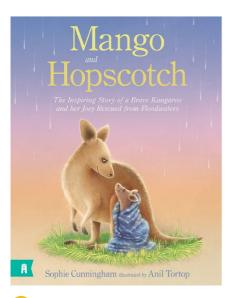
Runt and the Diabolical Dognapping returns readers to Upson Downs, and a new adventure for young Annie Shearer and her best friend Runt, the ex-stray dog with an extraordinary talent who will only obey Annie's commands if nobody else is watching. A beguiling mystery unfolds alongside the fervid world of elite canine competition, with a very different course of hurdles and hoops and obstacles for Annie and Runt to overcome.

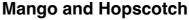
A beautiful, tender and moving sequel to the phenomenally bestselling, multi-award-winning classic, *Runt*.

THEMES: family, dogs, tricks, rural Australia, mystery, adventure

9781761181597 • HB • A\$26.99 NZ\$29.99 AGES 9-99 • OCTOBER • A&U

Picture Books





Sophie Cunningham, illustrated by Anil Tortop

The heartwarming tale of a brave kangaroo and her joey, inspired by true stories of courageous animal rescues around Australia, from the bestselling creators of *Tippy & Jellybean*.

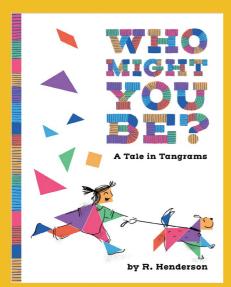
THEMES: wildlife rescue, Australian animals, floods

9781761181122 · HB A\$19.99 NZ\$22.99 AGES 5-7 · AUGUST ALBERT STREET BOOKS



Also available • 9781760878474





AC AS CS

Who Might You Be?

Robert Henderson

A lively story in which all the illustrations are tangrams; the well-known geometrical puzzle that is a square cut into seven pieces arranged to make various other shapes. It is also a delightful story about the imagination, where the words and pictures combine to tell a deeper story about the idea of self, from the highly acclaimed creator of *I See*, *I See*.

THEMES: identity, geometry, imagination, visual literacy, humour

9781760526276 · HB · A\$24.99 NZ\$27.99 AGES 5-8 · JULY · A&U



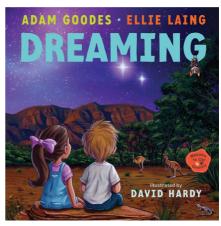
Dreaming: Welcome to Our Country

Adam Goodes and Ellie Laing. illustrated by David Hardy

This warm and accessible title in the bestselling and award-winning Welcome to Our Country series invites children to feel the vastness of the Dreaming and its central place in the spirituality and lives of First Nations people. From Australian of the Year Adam Goodes, former journalist Ellie Laing and Barkindji illustrator David Hardy.

THEMES: First Nations, Aboriginal Culture and knowledge, Country, Dreaming

9781761065095 · HB · A\$24.99 NZ\$27.99 AGES 4-8 · OCTOBER · A&U



















9781761065071







The Enchantment of Golden Eagle

Margaret Wild, illustrated by Stephen Michael King

A powerful tale about a child, a golden eagle and a forgotten promise from the author of the children's classic Fox, illustrated by the beloved creator of Mutt Dog.

THEMES: trust, responsibility, punishment, consequences, family, belonging

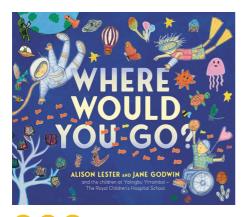
9781761181078 · HB · A\$24.99 NZ\$27.99 AGES 7-11 · JULY · A&U







Picture Books



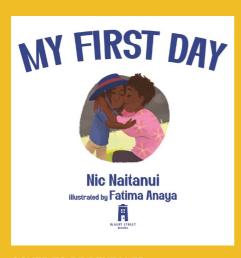


Alison Lester and Jane Godwin

Take a journey through words and drawings in this magical adventure as the children of the Royal Children's Hospital wonder where everyone at the hospital might go — the doctors, the nurses, the teachers, and even themselves. With a lyrical text and additional artwork from much-loved creators Jane Godwin and Alison Lester (*The Silver Sea, Sing Me the Summer*), this unforgettable collaboration explores the magic of imagination and celebrates the joy of coming home.

THEMES: imagination, children's artwork, hospital

9781761181573 · HB · A\$19.99 NZ\$22.99 AGES 4-8 · NOVEMBER · A&U



COVER TO BE REVEALED

My First Day Nic Naitanui, illustrated by Fatima Anaya

Nic is nervous about his first day ... but with the help of his mum and a whole class of new friends, it might just be the best day ever.

A perfect resource for helping kids through the anxiety and excitement of starting school.

THEMES: starting school, family, friends, diversity, inclusion, representation

9781761182488 • HB • A\$19.99 NZ\$22.99 AGES 3-6 • DECEMBER ALBERT STREET BOOKS

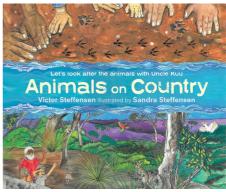
Animals on Country

Victor Steffensen, illustrated by Sandra Steffensen

This engaging picture book from awardwinning brother-and-sister team Victor and Sandra Steffensen inspires children and adults alike to look after animals through Indigenous cultural practices.

THEMES: Australian animals, Country, conservation. First Nations histories and cultures

9781761181566 · HB · A\$24.99 NZ\$27.99 AGES 5-10 · SEPTEMBER · A&U









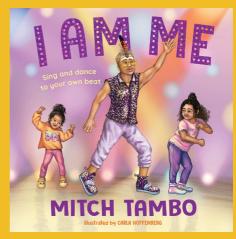
I Am Me

Mitch Tambo, illustrated by Carla Hoffenberg

In his trademark effervescent style, musician and performer Mitch Tambo welcomes children of all ages to discover the richness of First Nations Culture. Through song, dance and Language, he shares the ways of his Gamilaraay people, offering readers space to explore their own heritage.

THEMES: First Nations Culture, being true to oneself, diversity

9781761182204 · HB · A\$24.99 NZ\$27.99 AGES 3-7 · SEPTEMBER · A&U











Whatever the Weather We're In This Together

Jessica Braithwaite, Rebecca Ralfe, illustrated by Laura Bee

A beautiful celebration of the Australian seasons, and a gorgeous affirmation of unconditional love, Whatever the Weather We're in This Together is a wonderful addition to the classic tradition of Guess How Much I Love You and Under the Love Umbrella

THEMES: unconditional love, seasons, reassurance, family

9781761182297 • HB • A\$22.99 NZ\$24.99 AGES 3-7 • NOVEMBER • ALBERT STREET BOOKS



Dogs with Jobs

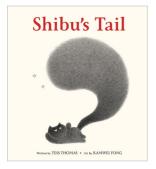
Max Hamilton

From beekeepers to brave rescuers, dogs have the most amazing jobs! A delightful exploration of the many careers of our canine companions.

THEMES: dogs, jobs, teamwork, helpfulness, pet ownership

9781761181016 · HB · A\$19.99 NZ\$22.99 AGES 3-7 · OCTOBER · ALBERT STREET BOOKS







Shibu's Tail

Tess Thomas, illustrated by Kamwei Fong

Shibu is a cat who uses his very demonstrative tail to express his feelings, but when he starts to feel a little judged by the other (not quite so expressive) cats, he must decide for himself whether those big feelings are okay. A picture book about the importance and joy of being yourself.

THEMES: feelings, cats, expression, identity, self-confidence

9781761182525 • HB • A\$24.99 NZ\$27.99 AGES 4-8 • OCTOBER • A&U

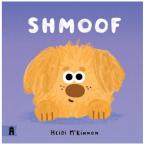
Shmoof

Heidi McKinnon

A dog makes a great best friend... unless you are a cat! An adorable picture book from the author of the bestselling and much-loved Floof

THEMES: friendship, mischief, dogs, cats, humour

9781760876661 · HB · A\$19.99 NZ\$22.99 AGES 3-7 · JULY · ALBERT STREET BOOKS











Fox 25th Anniversary Edition

Margaret Wild, illustrated by Ron Brooks

A beautiful hardcover edition of the classic picture book to celebrate the 25th anniversary of this compelling drama about friendship, loyalty, risk and betrayal.

THEMES: jealousy, loneliness, fable-like writing

9781761181931 · HB · A\$24.99 NZ\$27.99 AGES 9-18 · NOVEMBER · A&U









Wrapping Things

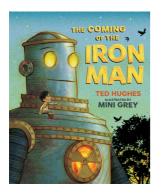
Linda Burgess, illustrated by Hilary Jean Tapper

A beautiful story for young children about the arrival of a new baby into the family.

THEMES: play, family life, inner world of a child, arrival of a new baby, imagination

9781991142009 · PB · A\$22.99 NZ\$24.99 AGES 4-7 · OCTOBER · A&U NZ





The Coming of the Iron Man

Ted Hughes, illustrated by Mini Grev

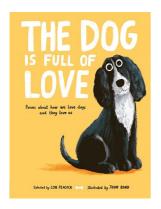
This gorgeous abridged edition brings *The Iron Man* to a picture book audience for the very first time!

THEMES: bravery, prejudice, fear, acceptance

9780571382736 · PB · A\$16.99 NZ\$18.99 AGES 5-8 · SEPTEMBER · FABER







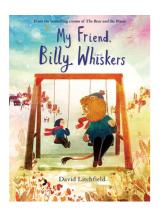
The Dog is Full of Love

Lou Peacock illustrated by John Bond

A brilliantly illustrated collection of over 30 poems about how we love dogs and they love us right back.

THEMES: illustrated poetry, dogs, loyalty

9781805134312 · HB · A\$22.99 NZ\$24.99 AGES 7-12 · OCTOBER · NOSY CROW



My Friend, Billy Whiskers

David Litchfield

A playful, heart-warming tale about the magic of imaginary friends, brimming with energy and adventure. Celebrate the fun, mischief, and comfort of friendship with award-winning author-illustrator David Litchfield.

THEMES: imagination, creativity, friendship

9780711296008 · HB · A\$24.99 NZ\$27.99

AGES 5-7 · NOVEMBER

FRANCES LINCOLN CHILDREN'S

New Kid on Deck: Pirate Academy 1

Justine Somper

From the award-winning author of the Vampirates series, comes a fast-paced and exciting fantasy adventure series perfect for readers of *How to Train Your Dragon* or *Artemis Fowl*.

THEMES: adventure, friendship, sailing, leadership, loyalty,

9781761182044 • PB • A\$16.99 NZ\$18.99 AGES 8-12 • AUGUST • A&U



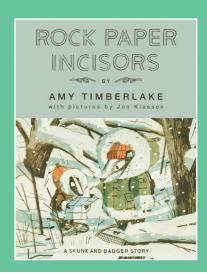
Rock Paper Incisors: Skunk and Badger 3

Amy Timberlake, illustrated by Jon Klassen

Skunk and Badger's unusual friendship continues in this delightful series written by Newbery Honor author Amy Timberlake, and illustrated by Caldecott Medalist Jon Klassen, which contains the best elements of classics such as *Frog and Toad* and *Winnie-the-Pooh*.

THEMES: animals, friendship, humour, hibernation, kindness

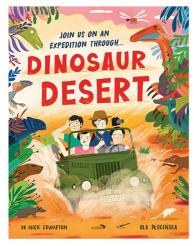
9781760877064 · HB · A\$24.99 NZ\$27.99 AGES 7-12 · NOVEMBER · A&U



Did you know that Teacher Resources will be available at the time of release for many of the titles in this catalogue?

Visit allenandunwin.com/resources/learn to find out more.

Junior Fiction







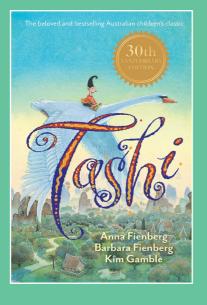
Dinosaur Desert

Dr Nick Crumpton, illustrated by Ola Plocinska

Travel back in time with the incredible true story of Zofia Kielan-Jaworowska – a fearless scientist who uncovered some of the most astonishing fossils the world has ever seen. From the massive claws of the mysterious Deinocheirus to the delicate bones of the earliest mammals, her discoveries helped rewrite the history of life on Earth.

THEMES: STEM, biography, paleontology, adventure. narrative non-fiction

9781800786653 · HB · A\$29.99 NZ\$32.99 AGES 7-10 · OCTOBER · TEMPLAR



Tashi 30th Anniversary Edition

Anna Fienberg, Barbara Fienberg and Kim Gamble

Tashi's adventures have been loved by children all over the world for thirty years. This special bumper edition of the original Tashi book celebrates Tashi's legacy, and includes never-before-seen illustrations by Kim Gamble, the entire *Tashi and the Wicked Magician*, as well as 'Tashi and the Silver Cup', and 'Kidnapped!' from *Tashi's Storybook*.

THEMES: friendship, family, escape, adventure, magic, dragons, courage, cleverness

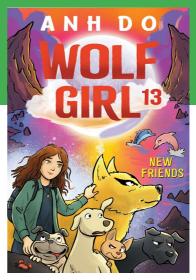
9781761181450 · HB · A\$19.99 NZ\$22.99 AGES 5-8 · JULY · A&U Anh Do is one of Australia's best-loved storytellers. His series, including Wolf Girl, E-Boy and WeirDo, are adored by millions of kids around the country.



Wolf Girl Returns!

From Australia's bestselling author comes two thrilling new tales of survival and friendship featuring Wolf Girl and her fearless pack!

THEMES: adventure, fantasy, friendship, courage, identity, empowering girls, survival, dogs, communicating with animals



New Friends: Wolf Girl 13

illustrated by Kalp Sanghvi and Jeremy Ley

9781761181641 • PB • A\$16.99 NZ\$18.99 AGES 8-14 • JULY • A&U

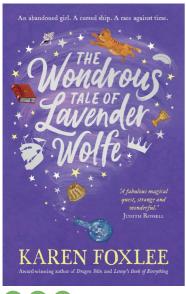
The Break In: Wolf Girl 14

illustrated by Jeremy Ley

9781761182259 • PB • A\$16.99 NZ\$18.99 AGES 8-14 • DECEMBER • A&U



Middle Fiction



The Wonderous Tale of Lavender Wolfe

Karen Foxlee

An inventive and playful fantasy-adventure set in an alternative Georgian world about an abandoned girl, a friendly ogress and a terrible curse from the multi-award-winning and bestselling author of *Dragon Skin* and *Lenny's Book of Everything*.

THEMES: magic, history, found family, identity, quest adventure, fairytales and myths

9781761182020 · HB A\$24.99 NZ\$27.99 AGES 9-12 NOVEMBER · A&U



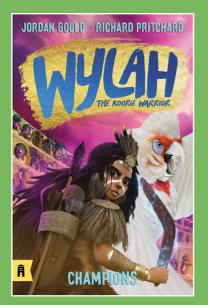


Also available • 9781760526108 • 9781760528706











Champions:

Wylah the Koorie Warrior 4

Jordan Gould and Richard Pritchard

A heart-stopping adventure, starring a hero for the ages and her mega-funny megafauna friends – this best-selling series is a student favourite.

THEMES: adventure, fantasy, Culture, quest, friendship, family, First Nations, dragons, megafauna

9781761181467 · PB · A\$16.99 NZ\$18.99 AGES 8-14 · AUGUST · ALBERT STREET BOOKS







Also available • 9781761180033 • 9781761180040 • 9781761180798

The Secret Green

Sonya Wilson

This thrilling sequel to *Spark Hunter* crackles with the magic of the ancient forest. It's a high-stakes adventure through a vast wonderland with a great green secret hidden from humans for thousands of years.

THEMES: magic, environmentalism, adventure, mystery

9781991142085 • PB • A\$22.99 NZ\$24.99 AGES 8-12 • JULY • A&U NZ



Also available • 9781991142221



The Case of the Angry Ghost: Violet and the Velvets Book 2

Rachael King

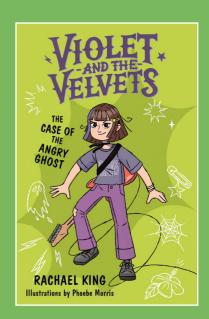
Violet and her friends form a school rock band and are super excited to compete until a ghost threatens to stop the competition!

THEMES: girl power, friendship, being different, the power of music, ADHD

9781991006998 • PB • A\$16.99 NZ\$18.99 AGES 8-12 • SEPTEMBER • A&U NZ









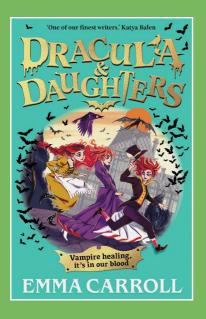
The Museum of Lost Umbrellas

Marie-Louise Fitzpatrick

Discover a magical island where the houses grant you wishes and the alleyways are secret portals . . . The first book in a show-stopping fantasy middle-grade series from an award-winning author!

THEMES: fantasy, adventure, magic

9780571385720 · PB · A\$16.99 NZ\$18.99 AGES 9-12 · NOVEMBER · FABER CHILD



Dracula & Daughters

Emma Carroll

Packed full of atmosphere and deliciously gothic detail, this is the first in a brand new adventure series featuring three cousins who discover they're descendants of Dracula, and combine their powers to form an infamous vampire healing company, Dracula & Daughters.

THEMES: vampires, adventure, humour

9780571388769 · PB · A\$16.99 NZ\$18.99 AGES 9-12 · OCTOBER · FABER CHILD

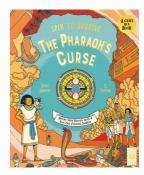
Spin to Survive: The Pharaoh's Curse

Emily Hawkins, illustrated by Ruby Fresson

Step back into the distant past with a choose-your-ownadventure escapade that takes students on a journey through the dangerous environs of ancient Egypt.

THEMES: Ancient Egypt, choose-your-own-adventure

9781836003052 · HB · A\$39.99 NZ\$45.00 AGES 8-12 · OCTOBER · WIDE EYED EDITIONS





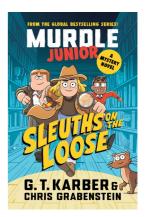
Murdle Junior Mysteries: Sleuths on the Loose

G.T. Karber and Chris Grabenstein

G. T. Karber brings you the first *Murdle* novel for young readers, based in the fiendishly mysterious world of the bestselling series. Join Jake as she investigates the sinister disappearance of one of her teachers with the help of her trusted friend, as well as the inscrutable school bully, uncovering clues, suspects and more than one secret along the way.

THEMES: logic, deduction, mystery

9781805223900 · PB · A\$16.99 NZ\$18.99 AGES 8-14 · JULY · SOUVENIR PRESS







Puzzle Book

Murdle Junior 2: Ready, Set, Solve!

G.T. Karber

The Sunday Times bestselling Murdle series presents the second book of fiendishly fun puzzle mysteries for young detectives

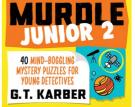
THEMES: logic, deduction, mystery

9781805223870 · PB · A\$19.99 NZ\$22.99 AGES 8-14 · JULY · SOUVENIR PRESS











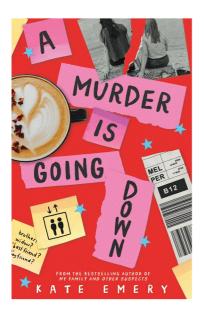
We Fell Apart

E. Lockhart

New York Times bestselling author E. Lockhart delivers a standalone novel in the world of TikTok sensation We Were Liars, filled with her signature beachy gothic atmosphere, family intrigue, and high stakes romance.

THEMES: thriller, crime, romance, coming-of-age, art and genius

9781761182426 • PB • A\$24.99 NZ\$27.99 AGES 13-18 • NOVEMBER • A&U



A Murder is Going Down

Kate Emery

A brilliant and hilarious cosy YA crime from the author of *My Family and Other Suspects*, with a mystery that will keep readers guessing to the very last page. For fans of Karen McManus and Holly Jackson.

THEMES: family, crime, love, romance, murder, humour, mystery, publishing

9781761182211 · PB · A\$19.99 NZ\$22.99 AGES 12-16 · NOVEMBER · A&U

Catch

Sarah Brill

A unique and irresistible YA coming-of-age story about sixteen-year-old Beth, who discovers she has a life-saving gift. A superb novel about finding out what it takes to be an unlikely hero.

THEMES: coming-of-age, speculative fiction, romance, family, basketball, dedication, selfdiscovery, self-belief, expectations, acceptance

9781761182037 · PB · A\$24.99 NZ\$27.99 AGES 13-18 · OCTOBER · A&U









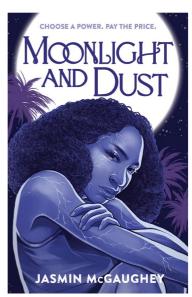
Moonlight and Dust

Jasmin McGaughey

An intriguing, fast-paced debut YA fantasy novel, featuring sixteen-year-old Torres Strait Islander Zillah who is caught up in the world of exclusive high school parties after her sister has a mysterious accident. For fans of kick-ass girls, enigmatic boys, true friendships, family secrets and illicit magic.

THEMES: First Nations Australians, Torres Strait Culture, fantasy, superpowers, mystery

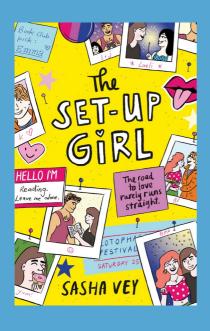
9781761181337 · PB · A\$24.99 NZ\$27.99 AGES 14-18 · JULY · A&U











The Set-Up Girl

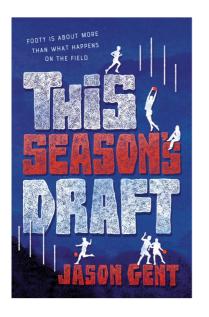
Sasha Vay

The only thing worse than having a secret crush on the hottest boy in class? Setting him up with your best friend! A fresh and contemporary romantic comedy for fans of Alice Oseman, Tobias Madden and Sophie Gonzales.

THEMES: romance, humour, LGBTQIA+ identity, friendship, family, community, sexuality

9781761181542 • PB • A\$19.99 NZ\$22.99 AGES 12-18 • AUGUST • A&U





This Season's Draft

Jason Gent

Set in the year leading up to the AFL Draft and following the experiences of six teenagers who are in its orbit, this YA novel is unique, compelling, authentic and full of footy. Perfect for sporty kids and reluctant teen readers.

THEMES: sport, AFL, footy, football, Draft, art, grief, future, hope

9781761181696 • PB • A\$19.99 NZ\$22.99 AGES 13-18 • SEPTEMBER • A&U







Once a Villain: Only a Monster 3

Vanessa Len

The heart-stopping finale in the incredible Only a Monster fantasy time-travel series takes Joan into the darkest timeline in the monster world, as she fights to restore the world she remembers. Perfect for fans of *These Violent Delights* by Chloe Gong and *Divine Rivals* by Rebecca Ross.

THEMES: fantasy, romance, heroes, time-travel, ethics, morality, LGBTQIA+

9781760878368 • PB A\$24.99 NZ\$27.99 AGES 13-18 AUGUST • A&U





Also available • 9781761069062 • 9781760293390



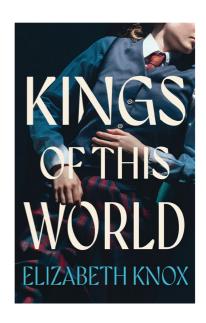
Kings of This World

Elizabeth Knox

When Vex and her friends are kidnapped and held to ransom it sets off a terrifying chain of twists and turns as they struggle to survive and try to find a way to escape.

THEMES: supernatural powers, danger, friendship, class and inequality, cults, neurodiversity

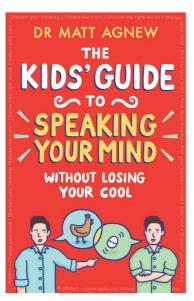
9781991142283 · PB · A\$26.99 NZ\$29.99 AGES 13-18 · SEPTEMBER · A&U NZ











There's a Prawn in Parliament House: The Kids' Guide to Australia's Amazing **Democracy**

Annabel Crabb, illustrated by First Dog on the Moon

A funny and informative account of how Australia's democracy works, packed with eve-popping anecdotes and things you never knew about our national Parliament, written by one of Australia's best-known and most entertaining political writers and documentary makers, Annabel Crabb - host of top-rating ABC series The House, Kitchen Cabinet and Back In Time For Dinner. Helpful and hilarious illustrations supplied by First Dog on the Moon, Australia's only marsupial Walkley award-winning cartoonist.

9781760637750 · PB · A\$24.99 NZ\$27.99 AGES 8-12 · OCTOBER · A&U

The Kids' Guide to Speaking **Your Mind Without Losing** Your Cool

Dr Matt Agnew

Sharpen up debating skills with this fun and engaging book that also includes imaginative activities to encourage critical thinking from one of Australia's most popular scientists.

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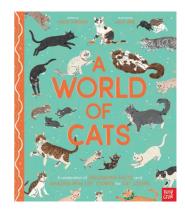


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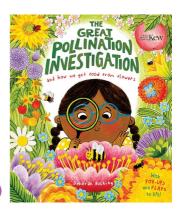


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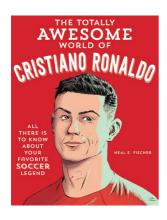
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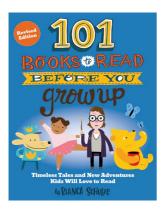
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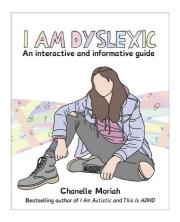
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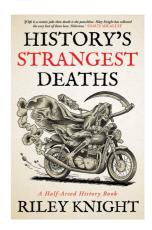
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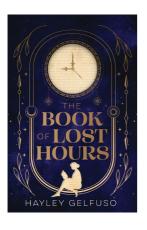
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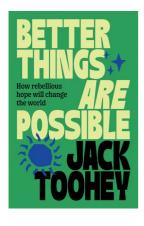


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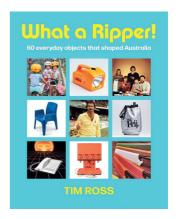
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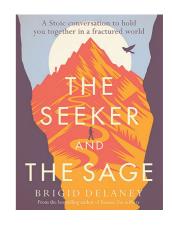


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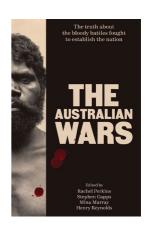


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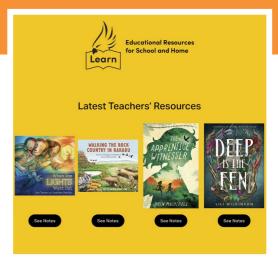




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