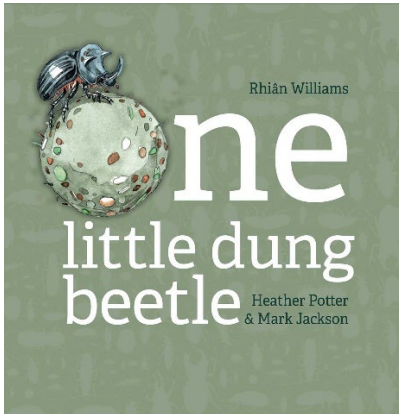
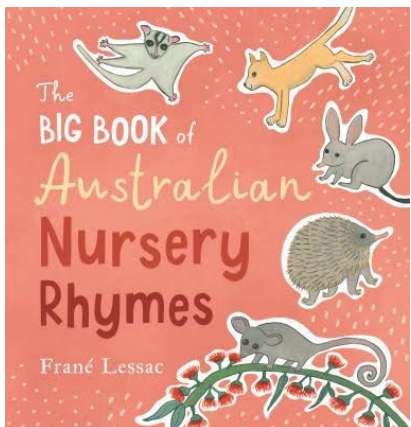
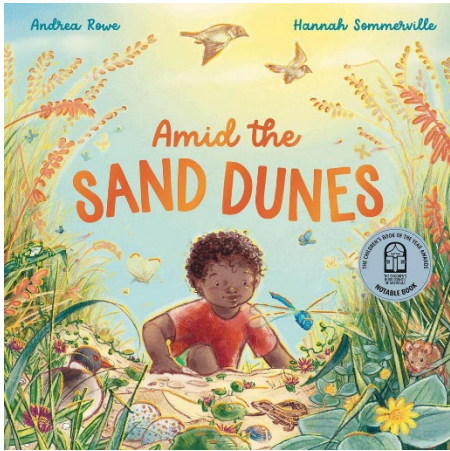
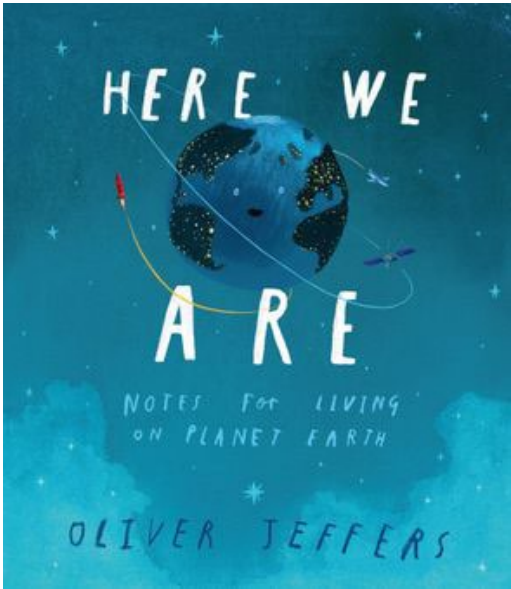
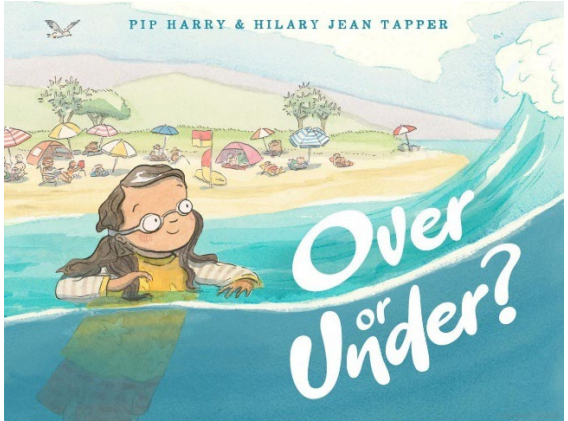
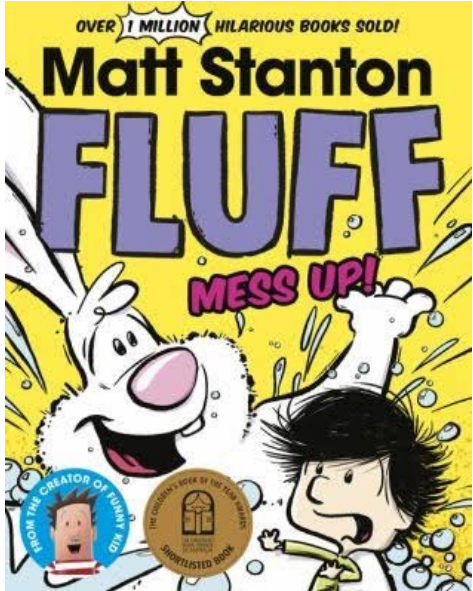


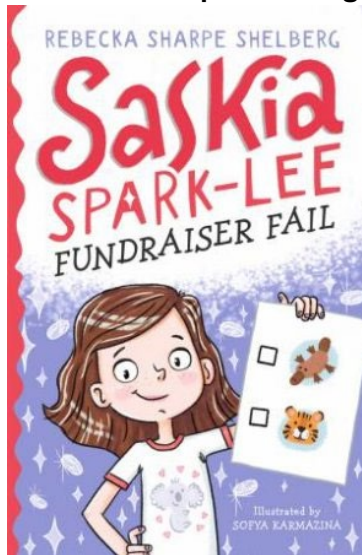
# Hook into Books book list 2025

Book title	Description	Age range – our recommendation	Age range – publisher recommendation
<b>General Fiction</b>			
<b>One Little Dung Beetle, Rhian Williams</b> 	<p>Beetles are clever, diligent environmental engineers, working away under our very noses. What's not to love about beetles?</p> <p>This is a very good information picture book for young readers with both numbers and beetle information.</p>	0,1,2 years	0-6 years
<b>The Big Book of Australian Nursery Rhymes Frané Lessac</b> 	<p>Chant and clap, play and sing along to this fun-filled collection of nursery rhymes with an Australian twist.</p> <p>Row, row, row, your boat, gently down the creek. If you hear a Tassie devil, don't forget to shriek! Lizzie Had a Little Bat; Here We Go Round the Banksia Bush; Hop Goes the Bilby; Three Blind Moles; Old McDonald Went Out Bush ... and many more in this glorious 96-page volume, destined to be an Australian classic</p>	0,1,2 years	0-6 years

<p><b>Amid the Sand Dunes</b> Andrea Rowe</p> 	<p>Little people love to explore little worlds! Explore the hidden spaces and sounds across the sand dunes with this beautiful board book for our smallest nature-lovers.</p>	<p>0,1,2 years</p>	<p>0-6 years</p>
<p><b>Here we are</b> Oliver Jeffers</p> 	<p>Well, hello. And welcome to this Planet. We call it Earth.</p> <p>Our world can be a bewildering place, especially if you've only just got here. Your head will be filled with questions, so let's explore what makes our planet and how we live on it.</p> <p>From land and sky to people and time, these notes can be your guide and start you on your journey. And you'll figure lots of things out for yourself. Just remember to leave notes for everyone else... Some things about our planet are pretty complicated, but things can be simple, too: you've just got to be kind.</p>	<p>3, 4, 5 years</p>	<p>4 – 8 years</p>

<p><b>Over or Under? Pip Harry</b></p> 	<p>I'm jumping waves at the beach with Dad.  <i>If they're small I can leap over their frothy peaks.</i>  <i>Easy!</i>  <i>But further out, when they're big, you must duck dive under.</i>          Maisie is learning about ocean swimming at the beach. The small waves are easy, but how will she know when to dive under the bigger ones? And will she be brave enough to try? Lucky Dad is there to help her.</p>	<p>3, 4, 5 years</p>	<p>3 – 9 years</p>
<p><b>Fluff Mess Up Matt Stanton</b></p> 	<p>The hilarious and unmissable new series about Gilbert, a boy whose best friend is an imaginary giant fluffy bunny called Fluff, from the creator who brought us The Odds, Funny Kid and Bored.</p> <p>Gilbert and Fluff have got themselves into an enormous mess!</p> <p>They must clean up, but Gilbert would rather not get his hands dirty. What he needs is ... a bunny with a wild idea!</p> <p>A hilarious story full of heart and packed with food fights, jumbo jets, banana smoothies and world domination!</p>	<p>6,7,8 years</p>	<p>6- 8 years</p>

**Saskia Spark Lee Fundraiser Fail**  
**Rebecca Sharpe Shelberg**

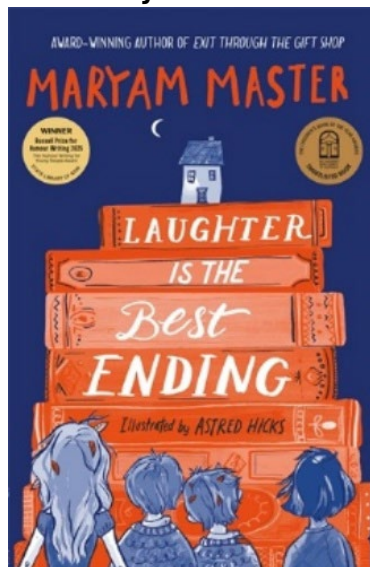


Saskia Spark-Lee loves animals – she’s almost adopted a whole zoo-worth! But when Da and Dee say they can’t add another to the collection, she must come up with a new plan to continue supporting her furry friends. With some help from Nanna, and the amazing fundraising skills of her friends, Saskia may find where there’s a will there’s a way!

6,7,8 years

6 – 9 years

**Laughter is the best ending**  
**Maryam Master**



Zee is a loner. She likes to read Oscar Wilde and watch documentaries all day which, according to her parents, is not normal for 13-year-olds. So, they decide to send her on a five-day holiday camp, hoping she'll make 'at least one friend'.

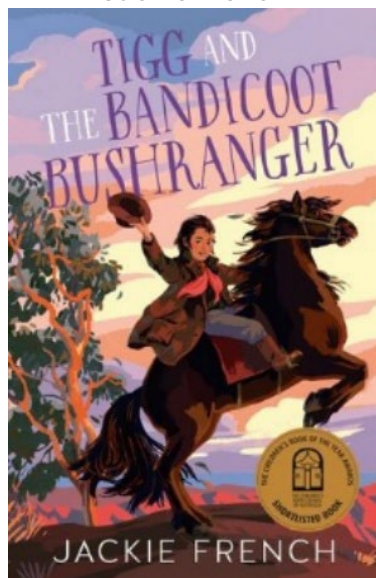
Now, Zee would rather take a bath in Tabasco sauce than attend a camp called Youth Fusion. But with influencer Tiffanee and super-nerds Jonah and Moses, she soon finds herself in the middle of a hair-rising mystery, hurling her into some fierce detective work and bringing her face to face with the notorious Old Bat Viv.

9, 10, 11 years

9+ years



**Tigg and the Bandicoot Bushranger**  
**Jackie French**



Orphaned twelve-year-old Tigg is the Bandicoot Bushranger, the youngest bushranger on the Ballarat goldfields in 1859.

When a robbery goes wrong, Tigg must flee in disguise as one of the tens of thousands of Chinese men and boys braving heat, thirst, starvation and murderous attacks on the long road from Robe in South Australia to the goldfields in Victoria.

But even further danger threatens. Who has offered a large sum of money for Tigg's capture? And is the mysterious Henry Lau a friend or enemy?

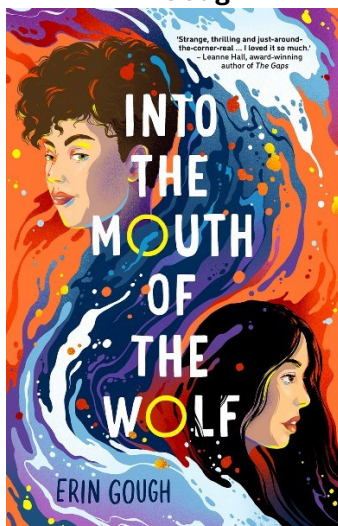
To be safe, Tigg must solve the greatest mystery of all.

Who is Tigg?

9, 10, 11 years

9+ years

**Into the mouth of the Wolf**  
**Erin Gough**

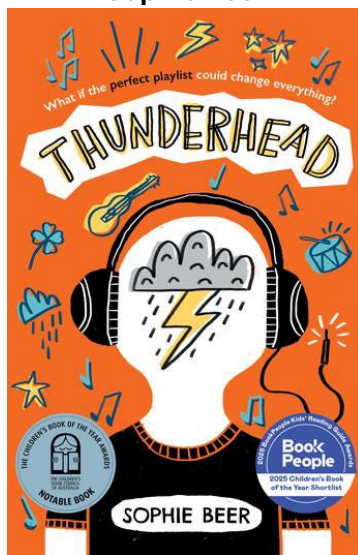


Iris lives on the run with her mother, Rohan. They're travelling to escape the earthquakes, though of course that's impossible. And they're being followed. One day, Rohan insists Iris repeat the phrase *in bocca al lupo*: into the mouth of the wolf. The next day, Rohan's vanished, leaving no clues about where she's gone besides a contact in an unknown town. Entirely alone and fearing the worst, Iris reaches out to a stranger for help.

12, 13, 14 years

12 to 99 years

**Thunderhead**  
**Sophie Beer**

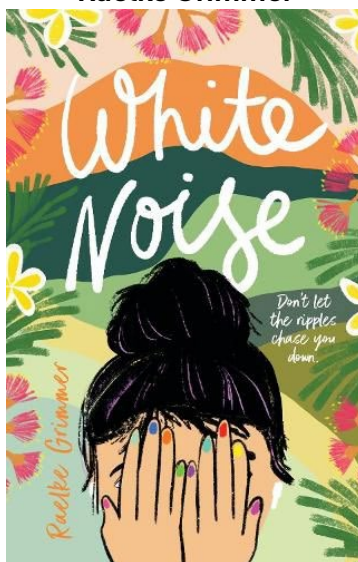


Meet Thunderhead: awkward, music-obsessed and a magnet for bad luck. Their favourite things in life are listening to records and hanging out with their best (and only) friend Moonflower. But Thunderhead has a big secret. And when Moonflower moves schools, they're faced with the reality of surviving the wilderness of high school alone. Make new friends? NOTHANKYOUVERYMUCH. As two big life events approach, Thunderhead posts playlists and heartfelt diary entries as an outlet to try to make sense of their changing world, to try to calm the storm brewing in their brain and to try to find the courage to unfurl their heart.

12, 13, 14 years

10 – 14 years

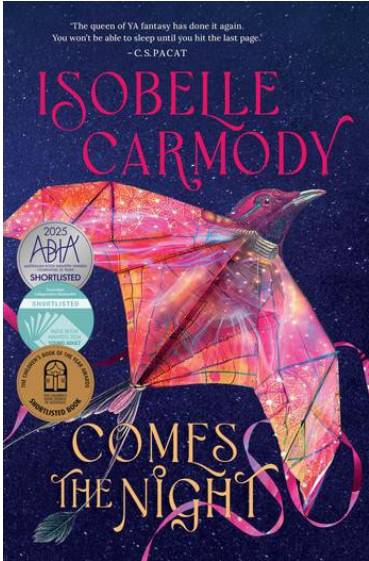
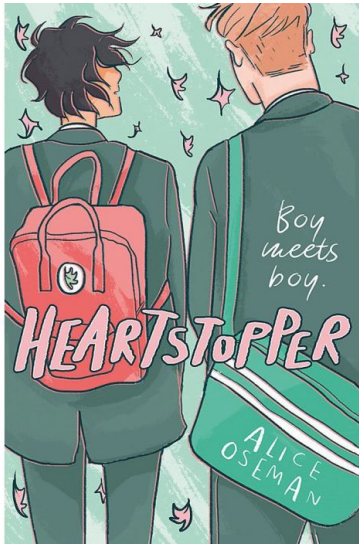
**White Noise**  
**Raelke Grimmer**



Fifteen-year-old Emma is woken up by her dad's nightmares. Again. On Friday evenings they go running at East Point Reserve to escape. Escape the ripples of grief that still chase them three years after her mum's death; escape Emma's autism diagnosis; escape her dad's work as an emergency room doctor. At school, Emma has won a spot on the beach volleyball Sports Institute program. The spot that her best friend Summer desperately wanted. And Summer's family are moving away to the other side of town. Their friendship has kept Emma going since her mum's death but now things are changing between them – and change isn't something Emma can outrun.

12, 13, 14 years

13+ years

<p><b>Comes the Night</b> <b>Isobelle Carmody</b></p> 	<p>Will lives with his father in a future domed Canberra where citizens are safe from extreme weather events, dangerous solar radiation and civil unrest. He does not question his carefully controlled existence until the recurrence of an old nightmare propels him on a dangerous quest.</p> <p>Gradually Will discovers his dreams hold cryptic clues that lead him into a shadowy alternate dimension. Here he must grapple with dark forces that operate in both worlds, with the help of his best friend Ender, her brilliant but difficult twin sister Magda, and a mysterious gift from his uncle.</p>	<p>15, 16, 17+ years</p>	<p>14 – 18 years</p>
<p><b>Heartstopper</b> <b>Alice Oseman</b></p> 	<p>Boy meets boy. Boys become friends. Boys fall in love.</p> <p>An LGBT+ graphic novel about life, love, and everything that happens in between - for fans of <i>THE ART OF BEING NORMAL</i>, Holly Bourne and <i>LOVE, SIMON</i>.</p> <p>Charlie and Nick are at the same school, but they've never met ... until one day when they're made to sit together. They quickly become friends, and soon Charlie is falling hard for Nick, even though he doesn't think he has a chance.</p> <p>But love works in surprising ways, and Nick is more interested in Charlie than either of them realised.</p>	<p>15, 16, 17+ years</p>	<p>15, 16, 17+ years</p>

**Eleanor Jones Can't Keep a Secret**  
Amy Doak



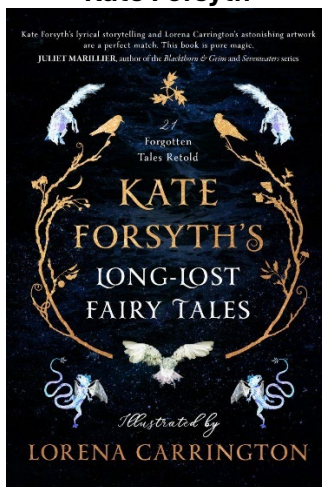
Eleanor Jones is adjusting to her new normal: friends, school and volunteering at the local old age home. Just as things feel calm, a series of events once again rock Eleanor's world: Troy's ex-girlfriend is back in Cooinda, there's a spate of farmhouse robberies, and Eleanor's nursing home buddy Nance admits to witnessing a murder.

In an effort to definitely *not* be concerned about Troy's ex, and *not* get involved in the robbery investigation, Eleanor throws herself into solving Nance's mystery. But Eleanor soon realises that digging into old secrets can be incredibly dangerous

15, 16, 17+ years

14+ years

**Kate Forsyth's Long Lost Fairy Tales**  
Kate Forsyth



Long, long ago, storytellers all around the world told tales of wonder both to enchant and entertain us, and also to teach us that – if we are good and kind and courageous enough – we can change the world for the better.

For this is what fairy tales do. They give us hope.

As we travel through the dark and dangerous world of the fairy tale, as we fight dragons and outwit ogres and save our sisters and brothers, we learn that we are capable of anything. And then we return to our own world with all that we have learned along the way, stronger and braver than before.

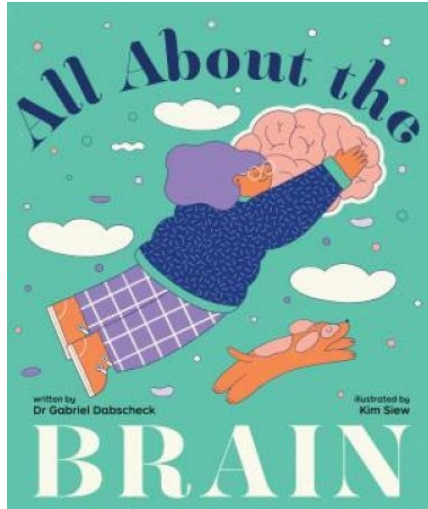
15, 16, 17+ years

13+ years



## Non-fiction

### All about the Brain Gabriel Dabscheck

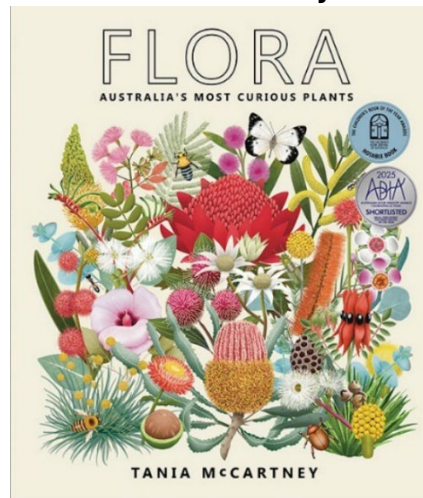


Ever wondered why the brain is the boss of your body? How does your brain tell the other parts of the body what to do? Curious kids will find the answers to these questions and more in All About the Brain by expert paediatric neurologist Dr Gabriel Dabscheck. This is the second book in Berbay's nonfiction series, authored by paediatric specialists and designed to be read cover to cover. It's a one-stop introduction to the brain for kids who want a better understanding of the way our amazing bodies work.

4+ years

4+ years

### Flora: Australia's Most Curious Plants Tania McCartney

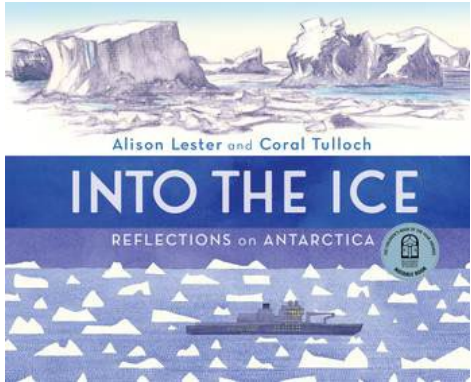



*Flora* celebrates and highlights these diverse and curious plants, looking into the history, quirks and uses of our native plants, and how vital they are for our unique ecosystems.

Tania McCartney brings her trademark skill and style in both writing and illustration, using her substantial experience in children's literature to examine Australia's botanical riches to pick out engaging, informative and surprising facts to share with young readers.

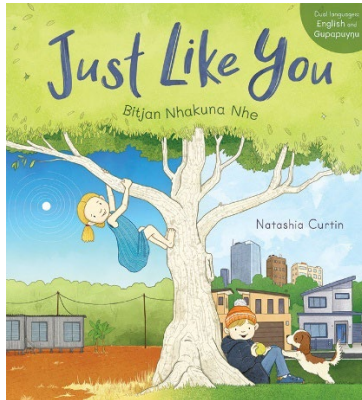
7+ years

7+ years

<p><b>Into the Ice: Reflections on Antarctica</b> Alison Lester &amp; Coral Tulloch</p> 	<p>Go on an extraordinary journey with Alison Lester and Coral Tulloch, two of Australia's most celebrated creators, as they share their reflections on Antarctica: sketches, writing, paintings, journal entries, their own and others'. This is a book for explorers and dreamers of all ages, and for anyone who wants to be inspired by the wonder of Antarctica.</p>	<p>8 – 14 years</p>	<p>8 – 14 years</p>
<p><b>The Anti-Racism kit</b> Sabina Patawaran &amp; Jinyoung Kim</p> 	<p>Written by two bright young Australian thinkers, the <b>Anti-Racism Kit</b> is a liberating, eye-opening exploration of anti-racism and racial justice centring on the lives and experiences of young adults. Covering three actionable, tangible areas for change – <b>Self</b>, <b>School</b> and <b>Society</b> – this guide breaks down key steps in learning about and practising anti-racism, including understanding important concepts such as privilege and internalised racism and learning to speak up effectively and safely in challenging situations.</p>	<p>12+ years</p>	<p>12+ years</p>

## First Nation Authors

### Just like you Natashia Curtin



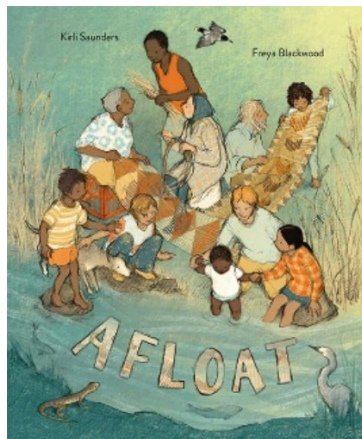
A dual language (English and Gupapuynu) bed time story, sharing the universal childhood experiences between generations, people and places.

Natashia Curtin draws inspiration from her time growing up in Arnhem Land in this delightful celebration of the universality of childhood, and the experiences we all share and treasure, regardless of generation, place, time and space. A delightful book to share with a child, told in dual languages, English and Gupapuynu.

3+ years

3-9 years

### Afloat Freya Blackwood



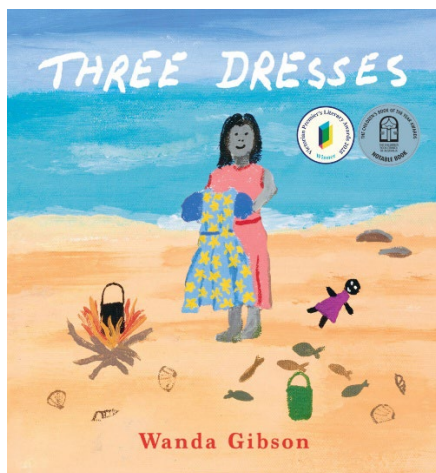
A story told in a time of climate crisis. Against a backdrop of a changed environment, an Elder leads a child along the waterways, sharing her People's knowledge and gathering community along the way.

**Afloat** is an uplifting and inspiring picture book that uses the practice of weaving as a powerful metaphor for the honouring and teaching of First Nations wisdom, and the coming together of all people to survive, thrive and create a more hopeful future.

4+ years

4+ years

**Three Dresses**  
**Wanda Gibson**



*'Take three dresses ... one to wash, one to wear and one spare.'*

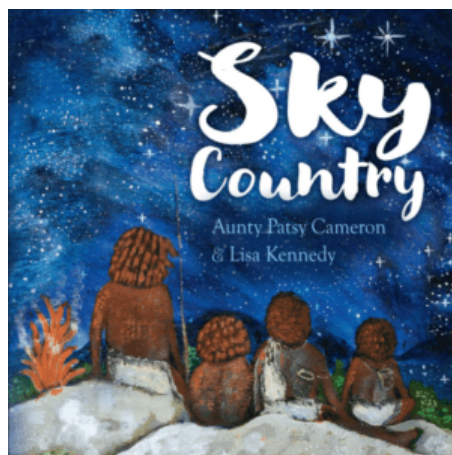
When Wanda Gibson was a little girl, her mum would tell her this as they packed to go on holidays. Wanda grew up on Hope Vale Mission in Far North Queensland, and her family were allowed only one short break away from work each year. At their special spot at the beach, they camped in the sandhills, cooked fresh fish on the fire and swam in the ocean.

Beautifully illustrated with Wanda's paintings, this heart-warming true story celebrates family time, connection to place and finding joy in the simple things, like your favourite three dresses.

4-8 years

4- 8 years

**Sky Country**  
**Aunty Patsy Cameron**



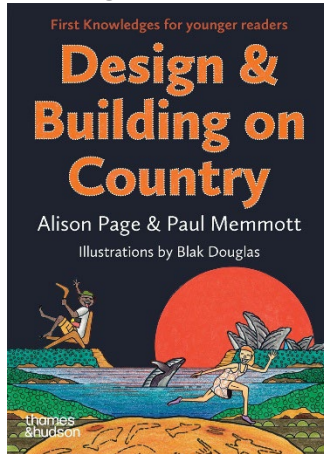
An ancient story of creation that describes two Ancestral Beings who came down from the Milky Way to create the Trouwerner (Tasmanian) landscape. Using some traditional language, this extraordinary children's picture book, filled with stunning illustrations, retells a captivating Ancestral memory dating back to the Ice Age – a period of time when Trouwerner was joined to the Australian mainland. Join Aunty Patsy Cameron as she generously shares the creation story of Trouwerner Country and its people.

5+ years

4+



**Design and Build on Country**  
**Alison Page & Paul Memmott**



What do you need to know to prosper as a people for 65,000 years or more? Join designer and artist Alison Page alongside anthropologist and architect Paul Memmott as they share some of the incredible inventions created by the oldest continuing culture in the world. From boomerangs to buildings, fire carriers to fashion, learn about Indigenous building and design on Country and how it continues today.

7+ years

7+ years

**Always Was, Always Will Be**  
**Aunty Fay Muir & Sue Lawson**

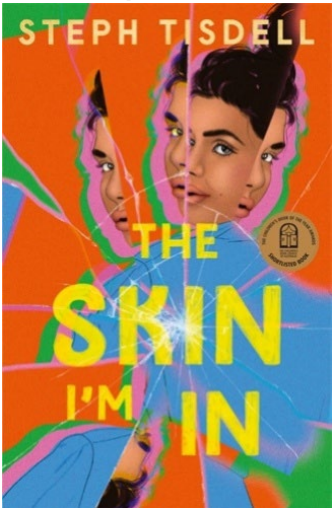
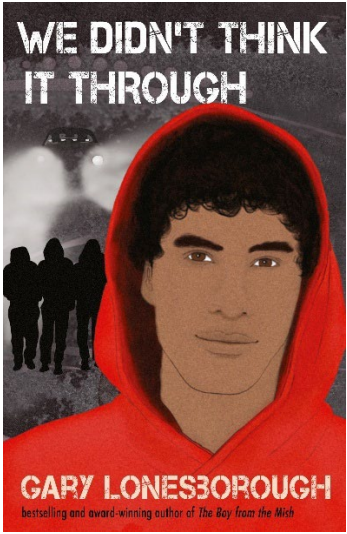


*'Each protest has been a stepping stone to the next battle...'*

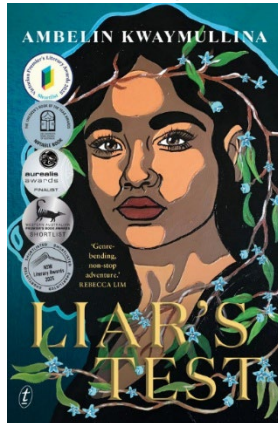
From the first protest of January 26th as a Day of Mourning in 1938, to the Pilbara Strike of 1946, to the struggle for the right to vote and be counted; the fight for justice for First Nations people takes many forms. *Always Was, Always Will Be* takes a closer look at some of the iconic First Peoples protest movements of the last 200 years, celebrating the strength, wisdom, and bravery of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people defending their land and asserting their right to self-determination through history.

10 -15 years

10 -15 years

<p><b>The Skin I'm in</b> <b>Steph Tisdell</b></p> 	<p>It was the beginning of everything. And the end of so much.'</p> <p>Layla is in her final year of school. It's the last year to make sure that the next major phase of her life begins correctly because she's got big plans.</p> <p>She just wants to be a normal teenager and to fit in but when her troubled cousin Marley comes to stay, he challenges everything she thought she was.</p> <p>Steph Tisdell is a writer, actor and an award-winning comedian. She's a proud Yidinji woman, and her words sparkle with humour, depth and authenticity in this extraordinary debut novel that explores cultural and personal expectations, and responsibilities.</p>	15+ years	15+ years
<p><b>We didn't think it through</b> <b>Gary Lonesborough</b></p> 	<p>The justice system characterises Jamie Langton as a 'danger to society', but he's just an Aboriginal kid, trying to find his way through adolescence.</p> <p>Jamie lives in Dalton's Bay with Aunty Dawn and Uncle Bobby. He spends his downtime hanging out with his mates, Dally and Lenny. Mark Cassidy and his white mates - the Footy Heads - take every opportunity they can to bully Jamie and his friends. On Lenny's last night in town before moving to Sydney, after another episode of racist harassment, Jamie, Dally and Lenny decide to retaliate by vandalising Mark Cassidy's car. And when they discover the keys are in the ignition...</p>	15+ years	15+ years

**Liar's test**  
**Ambelin Kwaymullina**



Bell Silverleaf is a liar. It's how she's survived. It's how all Tree singers have survived since they were invaded by the Risen and their fickle gods. But now Bell is in the Queen's Test—she's one of seven girls competing in deadly challenges to determine who will rule for the next twenty-five years. If Bell wins, she'll have the power to help her people and take revenge on the Risen. But first she has to make it through the challenges alive. She doesn't know how much she's been lied to, or where she fits in a bigger story, a mystery stretching back generations. And she's facing much bigger dangers than the Queen's Test. She's up against the gods themselves.

15+ years

15+ years