



# Kids' Corner

May 2024

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**BEGIN** with bits of  
**Book Week**

**JOIN** the Judges

**COLLIDE** and compete

**SHARE** some  
**Story Starters**

**NOTICE** the "NEWS"

Illustration created by Dub Leffler©





## WELCOME to more “reading is magic” in KC for MAY 2024



Books create images in our head and on the page. This month, our special guest illustrator and author, **DUB LEFFLER**, shares ideas about how his artworks and illustrations add a special magic to his books. Dub creates a whole universe of imagination as he brings history, culture, nature and stories to life. He starts with one “king” image to summarise the work. And his stories grow from there.

*Hi everyone,*

*My name is Dub Leffler & I’ve been illustrating children’s books for 23 years now.*

*I did the cover for this issue of **KIDS’ CORNER**.*

*I love illustrating things that are unknown... that still have some mystery - like space.*

*In the picture, a mother & daughter are stargazing on top of their caravan.*

*When we look into space, we can see a very long way, indeed.*

*Sometimes, we get to see eclipses. Other times, we see meteors fall to Earth and light up the whole sky.*

*And sometimes - when we look into the universe - our imaginations take flight, and our minds begin to wander & wonder ...*

*What do you think about when you look into space?*

*~ Dub Leffler*



<p>WINNER OF THE DAISY UTEMORAH AWARD</p> <p><b>Durrarn</b></p> <p>Carl Merrison &amp; Hakea Hustler</p>	<p><b>DUB’S RECENT BOOKS</b></p> <p><b>-Durrarn</b> (Magabala Books) <a href="https://magabala.com.au/products/durrarn">https://magabala.com.au/products/durrarn</a> by Carl Merrison and Hakea Hustler with <b>Dub Leffler</b> (Illustrator).</p> <p><b>-Our Dreaming</b> (Scholastic Australia) <a href="https://readingtime.com.au/our-dreaming/">https://readingtime.com.au/our-dreaming/</a> by Kirli Saunders and <b>Dub Leffler</b> (Illustrator).</p>	
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## Hi Dub, we were also wondering . . .

What do you enjoy about creating stories with art?

*I enjoy creating a visual world from reading words.*

When and how did you discover that you were actually an artist?

*I've been drawing since I was in Infants school- but it was in High School that I began to think of myself as an Artist.*

Are there any points of view or concepts that are important to your sense of story?

*It is important to explore different points of view when it comes to a story. Every character in a story has their own viewpoint- and each of them is unique.*

When you are working on a project, how do you realise that it is actually working?

*I realise a project is working - when I like working on the project. Also, when I can visualise the story clearly.*

What do you like about reading?

*What I love about reading is being able to escape to a different world every time I read.*

What surprises you about creating a story?

*Sometimes creating a story surprises you because you don't know yourself where the story will end up.*

*You also don't know who will read it once it comes out- or where your story or the book will end up.*

Find out more about Dub at his website <https://www.dublefflerillustrator.com/>

## KC for May also invites you to:



### Join the Judges

Meet some of the CBCA BOYA (Book of the Year Award) judges.

AND - Find out how you and your friends can become shadow judges of the 2024 CBCA short listed books ... just like the adults, except it's you!



### Collide And Compete

Start the countdown to CBCA Children's Book Week® by creating your own version of a book trailer based on some of the best of the 2024 notable books.

### Share some Story Starters



Could some of these images or special phrasings helped some of Australia's best authors and illustrators get started on their latest projects?



### Notice the “news”

New books this month combine 20 stories into one play, develop kindness, discover magic pets, learn from dinosaurs and more!

**Happy reading always.  
Cheers - Morrie and Magic Morrie**



## BITS OF CBCA Children’s Book Week®



### WELCOME to the BOYA JUDGES

Can you imagine reading anywhere from around 70 to over 200 books in less than a year? Each year, the 15 BOYA (Book of the Year Awards) judges read all the books nominated in their category in the search to be able to finally award the 6 overall best Australian Children’s books for the year.

The actual number of books in each category depends on how many of that type are published during that year. Publishers can nominate their book for the awards.

The **Notable** books (announced towards the end of February) are usually the top 20 books in each category.

The **Shortlist** (announced towards the end of March) is the top 6 books in each category. Finally, (on August 19 this year), the **WINNING BOYA = Book of the Year Awarded** book for each category is announced.

There are six categories of books:

**OLDER READERS, YOUNGER READERS, PICTURE BOOKS, Eve POWNALL (information) BOOKS, EARLY CHILDHOOD BOOKS, and books by NEW ILLUSTRATORS.**





There are 15 judges each year for five categories. The Picture Book judges also judge the New Illustrator category. Each judge's job starts as soon as the 500+ books that were nominated overall are sorted into their divisions. Then, the judges start to read and judge the books in their category. Each team of judges read and discuss the book. And then, they read them again and again until they end up with 6 books for each category that become the short-listed books until the overall BOYA [Books of the Year] are announced.

## JOIN THE JUDGES - Fran CARSON (NSW)

### Judging the CBCA 2024 Eve Pownall (Information books)



As you can see from the covers of these amazing books, we are so fortunate to have so many clever and talented writers and illustrators creating so many amazing books for Australian children.


As a judge for the Eve Pownall information books category, I have found it very exciting to receive boxes of books containing beautiful and informative books which often took my breath away! The creators of these fabulous books have often spent many months (or sometimes years) researching the topics and issues which they are writing about.

The combination of beautiful and creative artwork with extensive research means that no matter how young or old you are, you can not only be inspired but constantly learn something new. Many of the books submitted this year teach us so much about our history and natural environment. It has been fascinating to see a number of books focusing on Indigenous culture and history, and several including QR codes which allow the reader to hear Indigenous language spoken.

Since I was a child, I have especially enjoyed reading information books, especially those about the natural world and history. My love of art has meant that I love visiting art galleries and museums as well as enjoying the beauty of the bush. Having the opportunity to read so many of the books submitted in this category has really increased my appreciation of our wonderful Australian creators and my knowledge and appreciation of our amazing country.

I hope you can read some of these books for yourselves and be inspired like me! I know some of you will be creating fabulous books of your own.

## STORY STARTERS – What kind of story could YOU make with these phrases or images?

<p><b>STORY STARTERS</b> are pictures or phrases that could be turned into a story.</p> <p>Some of our creatives sent pictures that were modified to look like part of the Children’s Book Week theme:</p> <p><b>READING IS MAGIC.</b></p> <p>Morrie and Magic Morrie are making up a STORY STARTER phrases to get you started making up new stories.</p>	<p><b>SAMPLE AUTHOR/ ILLUSTRATOR</b></p> <p><b>TONI CARY</b></p>  <p><b>SAMPLE ILLUSTRATION</b></p> <p><b><i>As she read, magical creatures began to appear...</i></b></p> <p><b>SAMPLE STORY STARTER PHRASE</b></p>	<p><b>YouTube LINKS</b></p> <p>The pictures are part of a slide show used to announce the Notables.</p> <p><b>Film #1 A-F.</b>  <a href="https://youtu.be/Uf8RA0HTCJ4">https://youtu.be/Uf8RA0HTCJ4</a></p> <p><b>Film G-M</b>  <a href="https://youtu.be/pykzcDy6mdY">https://youtu.be/pykzcDy6mdY</a></p> <p><b>Film N-Z</b>  <a href="https://youtu.be/qXN77tBBOOA">https://youtu.be/qXN77tBBOOA</a></p>
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## JOIN THE JUDGES - Sheryl COOTES (NSW)



### Judging the CBCA 2024 Picture Book and New Illustrator Awards

Having judged the Eve Pownall books for the past two years, I was thrilled to be asked to stay on for another year and judge the Picture Book and New Illustrator categories. Throughout my teaching career of nearly 35 years, literature was embedded in my teaching and learning programs, and I have always been committed to building a culture of reading for pleasure among my students. My classroom had an extensive library of my books that I loved sharing with my students. I used picture books regularly in my classrooms.

Judging these categories has been exciting, but also quite challenging, with around two hundred and fifty entries between the two categories. It has been an exciting opportunity to view, in advance, new and creative representations of our world, appreciate the imaginations and skills of so many authors and illustrators and to be in the privileged position of evaluating these wonderful books. It is exciting, too, to see books by new authors and illustrators being nominated for consideration, in addition to viewing new releases of established authors and illustrators.

This year, in both categories, there were many entries that featured stories about birds, particularly chickens, and books to assist young people deal with challenges in their lives. These categories both cover books for 0-18 years. It was disappointing to receive very few entries for older readers and those dealing with more complex narratives.

I have been an avid reader throughout my life and have instilled a love of reading in most of my children and grandchildren. Reading provides me with the opportunity to escape into the lives and experiences of others and build empathy and understanding for the world and people around us. Reading, for me, is a wonderful way to relax and escape. I particularly enjoy reading Young Adult novels as the narratives are usually quite strong and enjoy escaping into crime and mystery books, particularly those with interesting characters and challenging puzzles to unravel.

It is an honour and privilege to be involved in the promotion and judging of the creations of our talented Australian authors and illustrators.

## **JOIN THE JUDGES - Colleen CADDEY (ACT)**



### **Judging the Younger Readers Category for 2022, 2023 and 2024**

Reading is one of my greatest loves. From my earliest memories until today, reading has transported, informed, sustained, entertained, and given me purpose. Reading helps me to understand myself, others, my relationships, and our world.

I love reading because a book is a forever gift. A book can be a constant friend, a great entertainer, a patient teacher, or a wise adviser.

As a Younger Reader Judge, I find the age-appropriate criteria the most interesting and challenging because the books in this category should be suitable for those aged 7-12. This is a wide range when you think of a narrative, and the appropriateness of its language, themes, and design features.

One thing that surprised me in the books we received this year was the number of books that are sequels or that are part of a series because to be considered, a book must stand alone and many of the books entered were dependent on the reader already being familiar with the characters or context of the book.

In my spare time I read a range of books. The experience of judging challenged me to broaden my reading repertoire. I now read books that show me how people in other countries, or from other cultures, live, love, work, and play.

Another category that I would like to explore is Eve Pownall because of the complexity and diversity of non-fiction content and its audience age range.

Something that I would like others to know is that I wanted to be a judge because of my personal love of reading and knowledge of how it has helped me become who I am and to achieve many of my life goals. I want all children to grow with a love of reading and to have access to high quality Australian literature. We have outstanding authors, illustrators and publishers and we need our young people to experience and build on their work.

## **JOIN THE JUDGES - Alex WHARTON (NSW)**

### **Judging the 2024 Eve Pownall (Information books)**



**Why do you like to read? What is the best thing about reading?** I love to read because it allows me to explore new worlds, consider different perspectives, and it reminds me that I am always a learner. Reading is magic - it's the gateway to endless possibilities!

**What part of the criteria for your category did you find most interesting?** The aspect of quality is of great interest to me. This aspect of the criteria considers things like the illustrations, book design,

production, and editing. A quality text is one you want to read again and again!

#### **What surprised you about the books in your category?**

I was surprised by the diversity of storytelling styles and themes within the category. We see cookbooks, autobiographies, narratives and information picture books, to name a few different styles. Each book brings a unique voice and approach to factual topics, themes and people.

#### **What do you read in your spare time?**

In my spare time, I enjoy a mix of fiction and nonfiction. Depending on my mood and interests, I might delve into classic literature, science fiction, or history books.

#### **How do you choose what to read?**

I often choose books based on recommendations from friends, reviews, or my curiosity about specific topics or authors. Sometimes, I explore genres or themes I haven't explored before to extend my reading experience.

#### **What other category are you curious about?**

I'm curious about exploring more books in the younger reader category, particularly those that blend elements of character and setting in innovative ways.

#### **Any interesting facts about your category?**

The Eve Pownall (information category) has an audience of 0-18 readers, and this year, 75 titles were submitted for this category.



### Is there a question you wish people would ask you about being a judge or a reader?

I wish people would ask more about how reading influences personal growth and empathy. Reading not only entertains but also shapes my understanding of others and the world around me in a really big way!

### BITS OF CBCA Children's Book Week®



## BOYA STATS = CBCA BOOKS OF THE YEAR AWARDS STATISTICS

The CBCA received 656 entries for their 15 expert Judges to assess.

The NOTABLES showcases the outstanding work of 118 books, representing 43 publishers, 122 writers, and 72 illustrators. This includes 27 new creators.

### BITS OF CBCA Children's Book Week®



## 2024 CBCA SHADOW JUDGING

You and your friends are invited to judge some of the BEST books of the year for CBCA Children's Book Week 2024. Join with other keen readers across Australia as a Shadow Judge.

Read and judge - just like the adult judges for CBCA Children's Book Week® – except it is **YOU** making the decisions.

The **CBCA SUN PROJECT: SHADOW JUDGING BOOK OF THE YEAR** is a national program <https://shadowjudging.cbca.org.au/> where young people read 6 shortlisted books from one of the CBCA Book of the Year Award categories <https://cbca.org.au/shortlist-2024>.

Then, they discuss, respond, and vote for their choice of the winning titles. Shadow Judges use the same Book of Year criteria to guide discussion as used by our Expert Judges.

Shadow Judges also create projects to showcase the books and categories they have chosen. You may decide to share your imagination in the form of artworks, games, essays, songs, video trailers, power points, bookmarks, playlists, or ...

Want to learn more about this growing program? Visit the [Sun Project: Shadow Judging website](https://shadowjudging.cbca.org.au/) at [shadowjudging.cbca.org.au](https://shadowjudging.cbca.org.au).

Watch the video announcement of the **2023 Shadow Judging Books of the Year**.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UuvTvPYTLsw>



## What makes a good book? You be the SHADOW judge.

## COLLIDE AND COMPETE



**LIGHTS!**  
**CAMERA! ACTION!**  
**Calling all students...**



Create a unique and original  
book trailer featuring a book  
from the

**2024 CBCA Notables list** <https://cbca.org.au/notables-2024>  
for your chance to win some great prizes.

## COLLIDE WITH THE CBCA NOTABLES

<https://www.cbcanw.org.au/collide-book-trailers>

### DETAILS FOR PARTICIPANTS

Produce a book trailer that features a book from the [2024 CBCA Notables list](#).

When producing your book trailer remember that a book trailer is like a movie trailer, but for a book.

You want to show others why they should read this book.

#### Eligibility

- Open to students in Years 3-9 living in NSW or attending a **CBCA NSW Branch Member School**.
- There will be three categories: Year 3-4; Years 5-6; Years 7-9.

#### Important Details

- Book Trailer Length: Maximum of 1 minute
- Filmed in Landscape mode (not portrait mode)
- File size must not exceed 200 MB
- The Book Trailer must acknowledge the title, author, illustrator (if applicable) and the publisher
- The Book Trailer must be submitted as a digital file no larger than 200 megabytes in file size
- Please read the terms and conditions carefully which are on the website.

#### Key Dates

- Trailers can be submitted until July 19, 2024

**The book or the movie? Why not BOTH?**



And now, notice the good “GNUS” about NEW books.



**Gnus, or wildebeests**, are large African antelopes. Gnus (pronounced like "news") are closely related to cattle, goats and sheep. These animals look like thin, muscular cows with large, sloping backs, curved horns and striped bodies. They also have manes and bushy beards. They generally travel in herds and stop frequently in their travels to read good GNU books, tell stories and love music in the open air. Some of this is true???. [Wikipedia]

**NEW/ “GNU” BOOKS** for this month discover magic pets, develop kindness, combine 20 stories into one incredible play and find good things in small packages.



## **PET Sitters: Goats can’t dance! Or can they?**

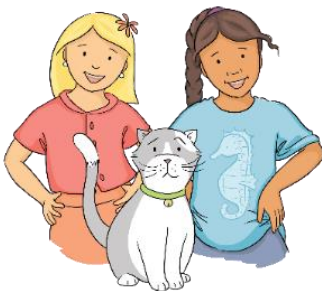
By **ELLA SHINE** <https://puddledogpress.com/about>

See also - **Penny Reeve** <https://www.pennyreeve.com/> . She also writes as **Penny Jaye** <https://www.pennyjaye.com/>

AND **Cecily Patterson** <https://www.cecilypaterson.com/>

### Welcome to the **Pet Sitters**

If you had to guess whether a goat could dance better than a cat, what would you choose? This was one of the crazy questions the authors of the *Pet Sitters* books had to figure out when they were writing their newest adventure!



The ***Pet Sitters*** stories are about Cassie and Lina, two 9-year-old best friends, and Gus a grumpy talking cat. In each book, the girls pet-sit an animal with unexpected magical abilities. For example, in ***Purple Panic*** they pet sit a guinea pig who is sometimes invisible! In ***Glitter Jitters*** they pet-sit a bearded dragon with allergies who sneezes glitter!

The ***Pet Sitters*** stories are written by **Ella Shine**, who is actually a fun pen name for two authors who work together: **Penny Jaye AND Cecily Anne Paterson = Ella Shine**



### Writing as a team

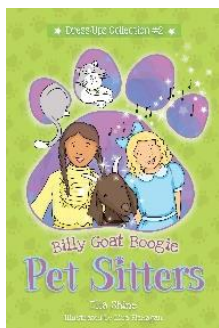
**Penny + Cecily =**



Writing as a team can be a lot of fun. You can brainstorm, plan and bounce ideas off each other to come up with new story lines.

This is exactly what happened when Penny and Cecily decided to write ***Billy Goat Boogie***.

Penny had goats when she was little, so loved the idea of writing a goat story. Cecily decided to name the goat after a famous Australian author. (Can you figure out who?) Then they had to decide what magical ability the goat could have and what kinds of chaos Gus the cat would create along the way.



## Raising the stakes in ***Billy Goat Boogie***

In ***Billy Goat Boogie***, Winton the goat is supposed to star in a calm and peaceful goats milk soap TV commercial being filmed in Cassie and Lina's town. The girls' job is to get Winton to the commercial without any drama.

When writing a fun adventure story, it's important to keep 'raising the stakes. This means making things more risky or dangerous. It's also important to keep the action moving.

In ***Billy Goat Boogie***, Penny and Cecily decided that they could use Winton's magical abilities to both raise the stakes *and* keep the action moving. But what magical ability should they choose? It needed to be something that would make getting to the TV commercial film set difficult *and* give Gus the cat something to complain about.

Penny and Cecily started asking questions. *What if Winton the goat knew how to dance? What if, instead of being calm and peaceful, he had an irresistible desire to move to whatever music he heard?*

From asking questions like this, the authors were able to come up with a hilarious plot where the unexpected keeps happening and the pet sitting team dances with disaster until the very end.

## Story Writing Strategies

The next time you are doing some creative writing, maybe try some of 'Ella Shine's strategies:

- Brainstorm your ideas with a friend or fellow writer.
- Think about how you can raise the stakes. (Can you increase the risk? Introduce a time limit or ticking clock?)
- Include something unexpected or surprising to keep your readers engaged.
- Ask questions as you write, such as: 'Why does my character want to do this?' or 'What could happen next to create chaos?'

### Win a Postal Pets 'Purr-fect' Subscription!

*Postal Pets* is a new subscription service offered by the publisher of the ***Pet Sitters*** series. Subscribers receive one new *Pet Sitters* book per month for six months, plus fun bonus extras such as stickers, bookmarks and more.



To enter the **Kids' Corner Postal Pets** competition, do the following:

- Visit the Ella Shine website [www.ellashineauthor.com](http://www.ellashineauthor.com)
- Use the contact form to send the publishers an email (with your Adults' permission).
- In your email describe which animal you would like to write a story about and what magical quality that animal could have.
- Include your name and age.

The winning entry will be shared in next month's Kids Corner and will receive a FREE Postal Pets 'Purr-fect' Subscription!

Entries must be received by 25<sup>th</sup> May.

## STORY STARTERS -

What kind of story could YOU make with these phrases or images?



**GABRIELLE BASSETT**

*The tiniest pinch of magic changed everything.*



**EMMA BOYD**

*The next time she looked, another image had appeared...*



**JACINTA BOYD**

*And as they read, the garden grew higher and higher...*

## STORY STARTERS –

What kind of story could YOU make with these phrases or images?



**TRACE BALLA**

*The song carried them higher and higher until ...*



**MEREDITH COSTAIN**

*Was she controlling the books, or were they controlling her?*

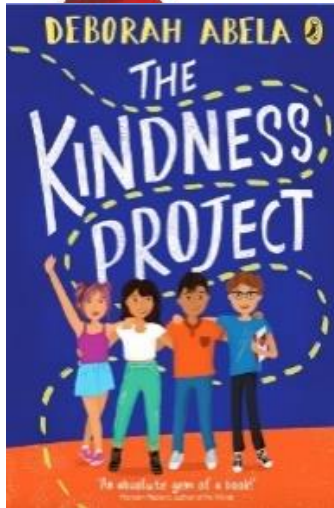


**DALE BAKER**

*Different characters began to crawl out from the covers...*



This is my “kind” of book...



## The KINDNESS PROJECT (Puffin books)

by DEB ABELA

<https://www.deborahabela.com/>

### FRIENDSHIP MANUAL

I feel like there's a manual  
for making friends  
and it was handed out to everyone  
**except me.**

Maybe mine was lost in the post  
or someone got two by mistake  
and that's why  
they have so many friends  
and get invited to parties  
and seem to know  
how to talk to each other  
at lunchtime  
or during sport  
or when you're suddenly  
put into a group

**with kids who don't like you.**

*The Kindness Project* is about four kids who are given a class project to make the world a better place. Trouble is, they can't stand each other...until they realise they have more in common than they thought and band together when one of them faces a crisis.

*The story* deals with issues many families face: intergenerational relationships, mental health, illness and loss, but also the power of friendship and family to connect us when life feels overwhelming and reminds us, we are not alone.



## WHY KINDNESS IS A SUPER-POWER

by Deborah Abela

### WHAT IS THE KINDNESS PROJECT ABOUT?

Four kids are given a class assignment to make the world a better place. Trouble is, they don't like each other...until they discover they have lots in common, including some big worries. They band together when one of them needs their help and create the most magnificent kindness project of all.

### WHAT ARE THEIR WORRIES?

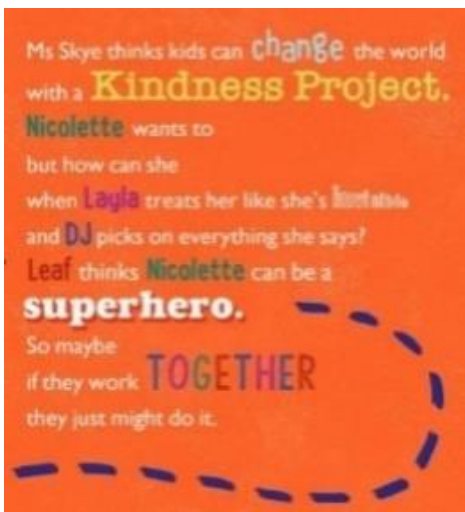
Nicolette worries about her nanna in the nursing home and maybe having dementia, Leaf worries about his mum, who is in hospital, DJ worries about his dad, who helps

sick kids overseas and Layla worries she doesn't belong, when her mum marries her stepdad.

**WHY KINDNESS?**

Kindness is a superpower. The smallest act of kindness can change someone's day – a smile, sharing your lunch, asking someone if they're okay – and it's infectious! If someone is kind to you, it makes you want to be kind to someone else. Sometimes, we assume things about people that aren't true and if we get to know them, we might realise we have lots in common and even become friends. With kindness, we can change the world.

**WHY A VERSE NOVEL?** I've written 30 books, all in prose, but this novel demanded to be written in verse. I LOVED writing in verse because I got to play with fonts and the way they looked on the page, so that the way a word looks, also tells us what is happening in the story.



**What kind of KINDNESS PROJECT do you think the world needs?**

**In this book you will love:**

- the layout.
- learning how to be kind and caring" (across the generations of characters!)
- discovering that a good start to being kind is to step outside the square and make a difference to someone else.

**What do you think?**

There is always room in the world for more kindness and caring. And, much as we hope for everyone to be "well and happy", there are some days when it's just not easy to help that happen. So, it's nice when a "kindness project" comes through. Things usually do get better, but having friends and others who help helps. It's nice when a "kindness project" comes through.

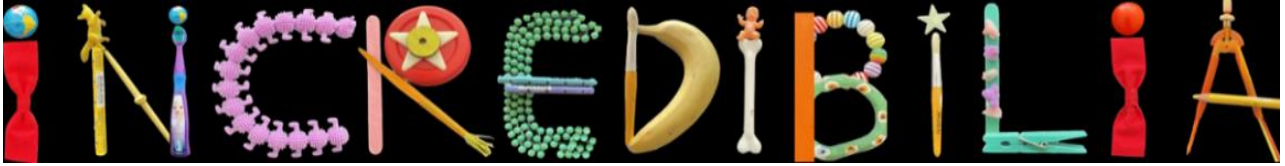


Try this-

<b>Smile at people.</b>	<b>Use your manners more – please.</b>	<b>Do something kind for the environment.</b>	<b>Ring, text, email someone to "check in."</b>
<b>Tell someone a joke to make them laugh.</b>	<b>Write a poem for someone.</b>	<b>Ask someone "RUOK?"</b>	<b>Teach someone something new.</b>



If you gather up some of the best of characters, settings, and plots from 20 of Libby Hathorn's books, and add in unique staging, energetic actors and bursts of music, there is a good chance that you have discovered some of the secrets of:



***INCREDIBILIA** combines aspects of 20 different books written over the years by Libby Hathorn, with imaginative staging by theatre-maker, Kim Carpenter (of Theatre of Image) and music by Peter Kennard's extraordinary one-man band to create a unique journey for characters to travel over the moon to many lands. And be home by dinnertime. [summary and flyers information with thanks to the State Library of NSW]*

## **LIBBY HATHORN shares the process of Creating the Story of INCREDIBILIA**

### **\*What is the basic plot/ story of Incredibilia?**

*Two energetic characters, (think a boy and a girl), decide to go on an adventure 'over the moon'. Magic bears them away with their mother calling Be home in time for dinner. They come down to earth in various places featured in 20 different books written by Libby Hathorn. The kids head off on an imaginative journey through a library, exotic countries, and unique places.*

### **\*How did you choose the books and parts of those books to adapt for the play?**

*Kim Carpenter, a celebrated theatre director (Theatre of Image) and innovative designer, chose titles from some 70 of my books to group together. These were able to take the actors on a swirling flight across twenty books.*

### **\*What is different about characters in a book versus being a character in a play?**

*There are many characters (both human and animal) in my books taking part in different stories that are their own, but the two characters on stage have to manage to illuminate FRAGMENTS of each of those stories and yet keep on their own story path Over the Moon.*

### **\*Why did you decide on the overall topics IDENTITY, Nature, Alpha KIDS and The CITY to give the play its structure?**

*Again, Kim Carpenter chose those divisions in order to give the twenty books some sort of cohesion. Then it was my job to write the play, connecting all of it and*



*producing new songs and poems as needed. Kim added all the stage directions and adapted a few parts for ease of passage of story. Peter Kennard as the musical composer wrote new music and created musical transitions throughout the show.*

**\*How did you decide how to change the characters as they journeyed through each book?**  
*With only two live actors, Manon Gunderson-Briggs and Fabio Jaconelli, we had to be very innovative in keeping them true to themselves but letting them experience, emotions, a sense of wonder, that went from confusion and fear to utter delight and then relief to get home safe and sound from an INCREDIBLE journey.*

**\* What surprised you about working with others to create INCREDIBILIA?**  
*The energy of the actors! Seeing the way the actors can take your words and make them their own, adding their gestures, their movements and the puppetry Kim deigned, to help tell the story in an invigorating and sometimes humourous, sometime poignant way, all in the space of a journey was INCREDIBLE!*  
*[Libby Hathorn April 2024]*



## **INCREDIBILIA: a journey of imagination**

**by Libby Hathorn,  
writer and poet.**

What a truly incredible thing for my friend, theatre director and imagineer, Kim Carpenter to do, but to ask me if he could direct a theatre production based on not one but many of my picture books. I was delighted and intrigued having worked with Kim and his unique Theatre of Image before. This was for an opera based on my book, **Grandma's Shoes**, a magical story of a child's search for her grandmother, (performed by Opera Australia and Theatre of Image, 2000.) So, Kim came to my place with a suitcase and took every single picture book I'd ever written, (some 40 or 50) which goes back to the 1970's and ends in the 2020's, in fact **Mother Earth** 2023.

Kim put them in an order, grouping them with several headings. My story **OVER THE MOON** provided the basis of a magical journey characters could undertake through several different landscapes and bring an audience along with them. He would



ingeniously create characters - then fashion his madly original puppets and landscapes; find two actors and the right musician to do it proud. This he duly did.

Having the 20 or so titles (we called *Incredibilia* after one of my earlier books) in order, now it was my job as writer and librettist to make it work as a *playscript*. It was also my job to write new words for any new songs we might perform. While it seemed a huge task at first, once I got started, the words seemed to flow, as I went over the moon from home to other lands, to a desert, to a garden, and safely back home through the texts of my books as basis and of course new inspiration.

Kim and I followed up with more meetings over several months, going over and over words and ideas until the script seemed to shine. And **INCREDIBILIA** the script was born!



Performances are available at the State Library NSW May11-26

<https://www.sl.nsw.gov.au/learning/incredibilia>

and the

Riverside Theatre, Parramatta 28 May – 1 June

<https://riversideparramatta.com.au/whats-on/incredibilia/>

See more at –

**Meet the creators of INCREDIBILIA!**

<https://www.sl.nsw.gov.au/learning/incredibilia/meet-creators-incredibilia>

**-Listing of Libby's books** <https://libbyhathorn.com/libby-hathorns-books-and-digital-media/>



## SHORT CUTS TO CREATING STORIES

Characters, settings, and plot lines are basic components in most stories. If you mix any of them up by swapping them from one story to another, you have set the stage for creating a brand-new story. Try this.

Write a brief outline of a story you have read recently. Who are the main characters?

Now, add yourself as a new character into the story. How would who you are as a person change the story or influence other characters in the story?

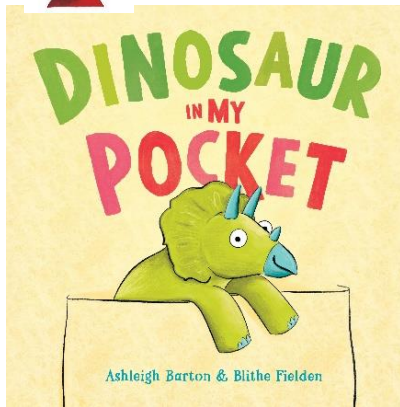
OR - Delete one character from the story. How does this change the story?

Congrats! You have made a new story – just like MAGIC's magic.





*Even small dinosaurs can make a big difference. Long live dinosaurs!*



**DINOSAUR IN MY POCKET**

(Lothian)

**Ashleigh BARTON**

<https://www.ashleighbarton.com/>

with

**Blithe FIELDEN, Illustrator**

[www.Blitheillustrations.com](http://www.Blitheillustrations.com)

[https://www.instagram.com/blithe\\_illustrations/?hl=en](https://www.instagram.com/blithe_illustrations/?hl=en)



**ASHLEIGH** - *Dinosaur in My Pocket* is about a little boy called James who loves dinosaurs and miniatures more than anything in the world. When he sees a miniature triceratops in the gift shop at a museum on a school excursion but doesn't have any money, he can't help himself: he takes the dinosaur. As the day goes on, James' guilty conscience grows and so does the dinosaur. Soon, he can't hide either and James has a decision to make.

I like to think of James' story as an example that we all make mistakes, but mistakes can be fixed and learned from. Guilt is a pretty terrible feeling, but it also serves as a reminder that we know the difference between right and wrong and can

recognise when we've chosen the wrong path. Luckily for us, and for James, there's always the opportunity to fix our mistakes and make things right again.



**BLITHE** - When I found out that I would be illustrating *Dinosaur in My Pocket*, there just so happened to be a dinosaur exhibition on display at Queensland Museum in Brisbane. Naturally, I seized the opportunity to visit! While there I was inspired by the excitable school children running around and the museum layout, which can be seen in the illustrations of the book. I

couldn't resist purchasing two of my own miniature dinosaurs - a triceratops and a brachiosaurus (don't worry, I paid for them!!). Much of my illustration inspiration stems from the ordinary moments of daily life, I notice outfits worn by children, facial expressions of concerned parents and the nature that surrounds us too.

**STORY STARTERS – What kind of story could YOU make with these phrases or images?**



**JANEEN BRIAN**

*As she gazed into the crystal ball the cards...*



**TONI CARY**

*As she read, even more magical creatures appeared...*



**JACKIE CASE**

*Small creatures exploded from the pages...*

# NATIONAL RECONCILIATION WEEK - 27 MAY TO 3 JUNE

*Now More Than Ever #NRW2024*



**NATIONAL RECONCILIATION WEEK (NRW)**  
*is a time for all Australians to learn about our shared histories, cultures, and achievements, and to explore how each of us can contribute to achieving reconciliation in Australia.*

<https://www.reconciliation.org.au/our-work/national-reconciliation-week/>

**DATES** - The dates for NRW remain the same each year; 27 May to 3 June. These dates commemorate two significant milestones in the reconciliation journey.

**MAY 27, 1967 - 1967 REFERENDUM** - Australian voters chose 'Yes' to count Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in the census and give the Australian Government the power to make laws for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.)  
and

**JUNE 3, 1992 - THE HIGH COURT MABO DECISION** - led to the recognition of the rights of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the traditional owners of their land.

**ARTWORK** - The **NATIONAL RECONCILIATION WEEK 2024** design and artwork represent the momentum of the theme **Now More Than Ever**.

*The chevron, a universal symbol for pointing the way, signifies advancing as one as we look towards a reconciled future.*

*The vibrant artwork of Gubbi Gubbi artist Maggie Douglas encourages connecting with one another, understanding and continuing to move forward.*



**RECONCILIATION**  
AUSTRALIA

<https://www.reconciliation.org.au/our-work/national-reconciliation-week/>

## What is NATIONAL RECONCILIATION WEEK?

*Reconciliation must live in the hearts, minds and actions of all Australians as we move forward, creating a nation strengthened by respectful relationships between the wider Australian community, and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.*

*We all have a role to play when it comes to reconciliation, and in playing our part we collectively build relationships and communities that value Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, histories, cultures, and futures.* From



<https://www.reconciliation.org.au/our-work/national-reconciliation-week/>

## ABC Behind the News: SORRY DAY By Jack Evans

Broadcast Tue 23 May 2023 at 12:30am

<https://www.abc.net.au/btn/classroom/sorry-day/102363614>



Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander viewers are advised that the following program does contain images and voices of people who have died.

May 26th is National Sorry Day, a day that acknowledges the Stolen Generations. That's the name given to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who were forcibly removed from their families and communities throughout much of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Jack explains what happened, and how things have changed in the years since.

## **SORRY DAY** <https://www.reconciliation.org.au/publication/lets-talk-sorry-day/>

*Sorry Day (26 May) is a time to remember the past policies of forced child removal and reflect on the sad and painful stories of the Stolen Generations. It is a time to recognise the resilience of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and the power of saying "Sorry."*

### **BACKGROUND**

**- 1950s:** *During the 1950s and 1960s, great numbers of Aboriginal children were removed from their families in the name of assimilation. They became known as the Stolen Generation.*

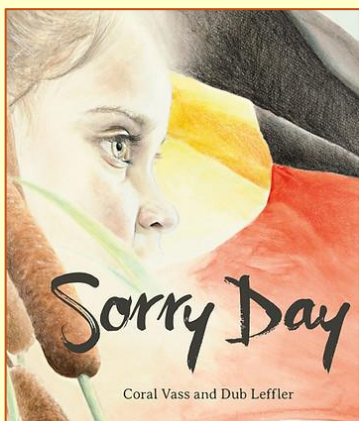
**- 1970s:** *Aboriginal children continue to be removed from their families into the 1970s. Aboriginal groups begin to receive funding to challenge these very high rates of removal.*

**26 May 1997:** *The Bringing Them Home Report is tabled in Federal Parliament. This report talked about the painful history of the Stolen Generations and made 54 recommendations for moving forward including holding a national Sorry Day every year.*

**26 May 1998:** *The first official Sorry Day is held to acknowledge the impact of forcible removal policies on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians.*

**28 May 2000:** The Corroboree 2000 Bridge Walk across Sydney Harbour Bridge shut down traffic and made national headlines as hundreds of thousands of people walked in support of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians.

**13 February 2008:** Prime Minister Kevin Rudd apologizes to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, for the policies which 'inflicted profound grief, suffering and loss on these, our fellow Australians'. This is why each year on 13 February, we now celebrate the anniversary of the **Apology**.



## **SORRY DAY** **(National Library of Australia)** **by Coral Vass and** **Illustrated by Dub Leffler**

SUMMARY – with thanks to the National Library of Australia

<https://www.nla.gov.au/stories/national-library-publishing/book-title/sorry-day#>

- Maggie and her mother await the long - anticipated apology to the Stolen Generations. In the crowd Maggie loses touch of her mother's hand and is lost. In a time 'long ago and not so long ago' children were taken from their parents, their 'sorrow echoing across the land'.

As the Prime Minister's speech unfolds Maggie is reunited with her mother. But the faces and memories of the stolen generation are all around them.

Two stories entwine in this captivating retelling of the momentous day when Australia acknowledged the sorrows of past.

**Click Here** to listen to a reading by illustrator, Dub Leffler.

**<https://www.dublefflerillustrator.com/publications>**

## **RECONCILIATION WEEK and NAIDOC WEEK**

**\*RECONCILIATION WEEK - 27 MAY - 3 JUNE**

<https://www.reconciliation.org.au/our-work/national-reconciliation-week/>

**\*NAIDOC Week - 7 – 14 JULY**

<https://www.naidoc.org.au/#:~:text=The%20National%20NAIDOC%20Committee%20has,from%207%20%E2%80%93%2014%20July%202024.>

## Do we need things or do we need friendships?



[https://alia.org.au/Web/Web/Events/Event\\_Display.aspx?EventKey=NSS2024](https://alia.org.au/Web/Web/Events/Event_Display.aspx?EventKey=NSS2024)

### SIMULTANEOUS STORY TIME MAY 22, 2024

"I am a collector. Always looking, finding ... and keeping! Bowerbird loves blue. Magnificent cobalt. Brilliant, vibrant blue! But something is missing. What could it be?"

Join readers throughout Australia to a shared reading of  
**BOWERBIRD BLUES**  
(Scholastic Press)  
By Aura Parker

<https://www.illustrated.com.au/>

VIDEOS <https://www.illustrated.com.au/videos>



*I wrote BOWERBIRD BLUES for lots of reasons, most of all, to try and capture a feeling, of longing for connection, for a craving which turns out to be for someone, instead of something. I wrote it for the joy of making, building, crafting, and finding out what you care for, or what matters most of all. I wrote it as a celebration of colour. I wrote it for a love of nature, and passion for our fragile environment...*

**AURA PARKER**

<https://paperbarkwords.blog/2023/04/18/bowerbird-blues-by-aura-parker/>



## KC MAY 2024

<https://www.cbcanw.org.au/kids-corner>

Space to imagine... Imaginations to illustrate...

Judges to join... Books and book trailers...

Story starters to share... Gnus and new books to notice...

Kindness to share...

Incredible stories to combine... Magical animals to pet- sit... Dinosaurs to discover...

Histories to reconcile and understand...

Stories to share...

This issue of **KIDS' CORNER** was compiled with the help of LOTS of people who love READNG, WRITING, THINKING and CREATING. Many thanks to all.

**KC** strives to find the right KIND of GNU books to keep the SPACE in everyone's head full of imagination and good ideas to share.

Rug up and read. Enjoy starting stories. Happy reading always.

Cheers- Morrie and MAGIC MORRIE

To share your ideas with and for

KIDS' CORNER, please contact

[Jackie.hawkes7@gmail.com](mailto:Jackie.hawkes7@gmail.com)

