



# Kids' Corner

June 2024

Volume 8 No.5

ISBN 2652 8320 print

ISSN 2652 8339 online

POETRY  
and MORE

The  
'NEWS'

COLLIDE

READING IS MAGIC ©

NOTABLY NSW

STORY  
STARTERS

SHADOW  
JUDGING



Image by macrovector on Freepik



WELCOME TO **KIDS' CORNER** for **JUNE 2024** featuring the

## 2024 NOTABLY NSW BOOKS.

*It's a busy time of year with authors and illustrators getting ready to share their BOYA titles and lots of other new releases ending up in "the NEWS". If you are a reader, a film maker or a judge of what makes a good book, you are in luck. READ ON and ON.*



**Morrie and Magic Morrie** have discovered even more about how **READING IS MAGIC** with:

- congrats to the NSW author and illustrators who are on the 2024 CBCA

Notables and / or the 2024 CBCA Short List. [See "**NOTABLY NSW**" listings]

- the **2024 BOOK WEEK** poem by **Mike Lucas**,

-updates and hints from **Deb, Nathan and Tristan** about the **COLLIDE** video trailer competition,

-examples of how the **State Library of NSW** and **SHADOW JUDGES** are evaluating the short-listed BOYA books,

- more **STORY STARTERS** from the Australian authors and illustrators,

- some of the latest titles and info about amazing new characters in "**the NEWS**"

- and ideas to help you discover **WABIAD** and how to **Write a book in a day!**



**THE SHORTS** = Links to quick info about:



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

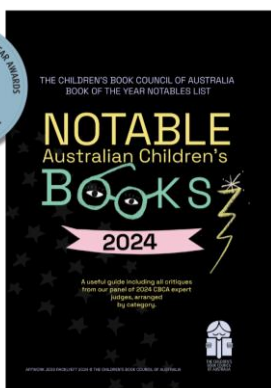
Choose one of the CBCA Notable books for 2024. Make a book trailer.

Meet the COLLIDE Judges: **Deb Abela, Tristan Bancks and Nathan Luff.**



**SHADOW JUDGING** <https://shadowjudging.cbca.org.au/>

**Read** the shortlisted titles. **Discuss, Decide and Vote** - which one is the best? **Create** a response to your favourite book in the form of a poem, poster, video, game, reviews, stories or...



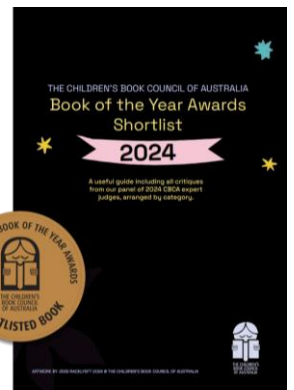
### 2024 CBCA BOOK of the YEAR AWARDS JUDGES' REVIEWS/ LISTS

About the NOTABLES...

<https://cbca.org.au/shortlist-2024>

About the SHORTLIST...

<https://www.cbca.org.au/notables-2024>



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

<p><b>STORY STARTERS</b> are pictures or phrases that could be turned into a story. 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>How would your story start?</b></p>	<p><b>AUTHOR/ ILLUSTRATOR</b> <b>MIKE LUCAS</b></p>  <p><b>PICTURE/ ILLUSTRATION</b> <b>STORY STARTER PHRASE</b></p> <p><i>No matter where he went, words followed him – never wanting to miss out on their next excellent adventure.</i></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>
----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

“The NEWS” is all about new books, full of characters who shape their worlds and may even change our minds about our own worlds. Sometimes, as characters take hold of their story, they develop a stronger identity that authors and readers don’t originally anticipate. And then, surprise! - we’re hooked.

Watch for seatbelts, flooded towns with strange histories, flying and floating creatures, secrets, magic, unlikely friendships, ghosts and superstitions, being perfect, bullies, bicycles, unique surprises, and more. And that is just the beginning.

The June issue of **KIDS’ CORNER** welcomes you to a feature of



**NOTABLY NSW**  
books for 2024



Titles of great Australian books are found on the CBCA Notables and the CBCA Short lists. It is exciting to discover that many of these books have been created by authors and illustrators who have links to NSW.

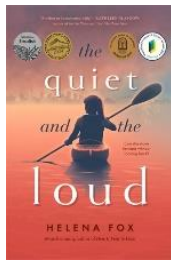
- ? How many of the CBCA Notable and Shortlisted titles have you read so far?
- ? Where are your favourite story creators from?
- ? How many of the CBCA Notables and Shortlisted titles are created by NOTABLY NSW authors and illustrators who have links to NSW?



**NOTABLY NSW**  
books for 2024



## on the CBCA SHORT LIST for OLDER READERS



### 2024 Short List

### NOTABLY NSW COVERS

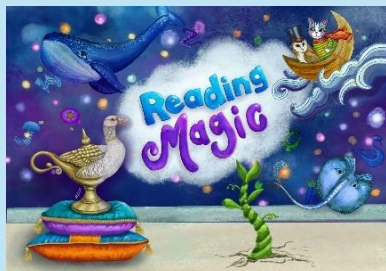
- *The Quiet and the Loud* - Helena Fox [NSW], (Pan Macmillan)
- *Two Can Play That Game* - Leanne Yong [NSW] (Allen & Unwin Children's)



## 2024 CBCA BOOK OF THE YEAR: OLDER READERS

- *Grace Notes* - Karen Comer [VIC] (Lothian)
- *A Hunger of Thorns* - Lili Wilkinson [VIC] (Allen & Unwin Children's)
- *Inkflower* - Suzy Zail [VIC] (Walker Books)
- *Let's Never Speak of This Again* – Megan Williams [QLD] (Text)
- *The Quiet and the Loud* - Helena Fox [NSW] (Pan Macmillan)
- *Two Can Play That Game* - Leanne Yong [NSW] (Allen & Unwin Children's)

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



**MICHELE GRAHAM**

*As they were drawn closer to the cloud, strange words began to appear.*



**BOB GRAHAM**

*It all looked quite ordinary, but you'll never guess what happened next...*



**PENNY HARRISON**

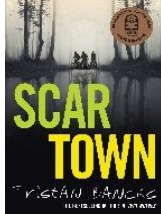
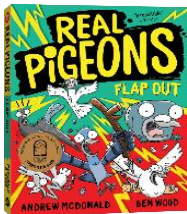
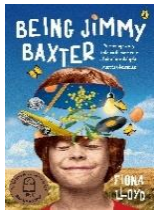
*And she was transported to a magical forest...*



NOTABLY NSW  
books for 2024



## on the CBCA SHORT LIST for YOUNGER READERS



### 2024 Short List NOTABLY NSW COVERS

- *Being Jimmy Baxter* - Fiona Lloyd [NSW], Puffin)
- *Real Pigeons Flap Out* - Andrew McDonald [VIC], illustrated by Ben Wood [VIC/ NSW], Hardie Grant CP
- *Scar Town* - Tristan Banks [NSW] (Puffin)
- *The Sideways Orbit of Evie Hart* - Samera Kamaleddine [NSW] (Harper Collins)



### 2024 CBCA BOOK OF THE YEAR: YOUNGER READERS

- *Being Jimmy Baxter* - Fiona Lloyd [NSW] (Puffin)
- *Huda Was Here* - H Hayek [SA/ WA/ VIC] (Allen & Unwin Children)
- *Real Pigeons Flap Out* - Andrew McDonald [VIC] Illustrated by Ben Wood [NSW/Vic] (Hardie Grant CP)
- *Scar Town* - Tristan Banks [NSW] (Puffin)
- *Scout and the Rescue Dogs* - Dianne Wolfer [VIC/ ACT/ NSW] Illustrated by Tony Flowers [ ] (Walker Books)
- *The Sideways Orbit of Evie Hart* - Samera Kamaleddine – [NSW] (Harper Collins)

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

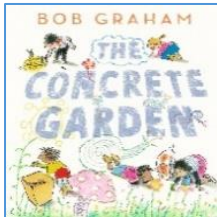
<b>MIKE DUMBLETON</b>	<b>HELEN EDWARDS</b>	<b>LORAIN HORSLEY</b>
And then, the window began to slowly close behind him	And just near the top, she thought she thought saw the slightest movement	...and she discovered that the tree of imagination had magical powers... ..



**NOTABLY NSW**  
books for 2024



## on the CBCA SHORT LIST for EARLY CHILDHOOD



### 2024 Short List NOTABLY NSW COVER

- *The Concrete Garden* - Bob Graham [NSW] (Walker Books)

### CBCA Book of the Year Awards Early Childhood Shortlist 2024



### 2024 CBCA BOOK OF THE YEAR: EARLY CHILDHOOD

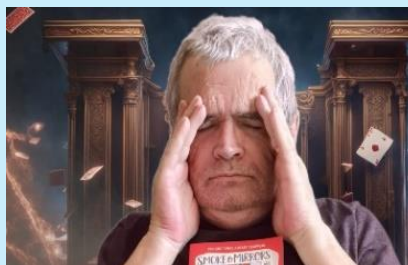
- *Bear and Duck Are Friends* – Sue DeGennaro [VIC] (Little Hare)
- *Can You Teach a Fish to Climb a Tree?* - Jane Godwin [VIC] Illustrated by Terry Denton [VIC] (Hardie Grant CP)
- *The Concrete Garden* – Bob Graham [NSW] (Walker Books)
- *Grace and Mr. Milligan* - Caz Goodwin [VIC/Qld], Illustrated by Pip Kruger [SA] (Marshall Cavendish)
- *Gymnastica Fantastica!* – Briony Stewart [WA] (Lothian)
- *One Little Duck* - Katrina Germein [SA] Illustrated by Danny Snell [SA] (Harper Collins)

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



**ANN JAMES**

*As she turned the page, a tiny village began to appear.*



**BARRY JONSBURG**

*Even though he had promised not to look, something was going on and he just had to find out what...*



**NORMAN JORGENSEN**

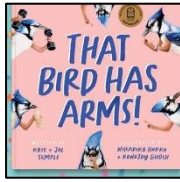
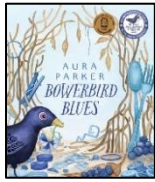
*Armed with his medal, a magic hat, and some well-trained words, he set off with his army of books to find even more treasures!*



**NOTABLY NSW**  
books for 2024



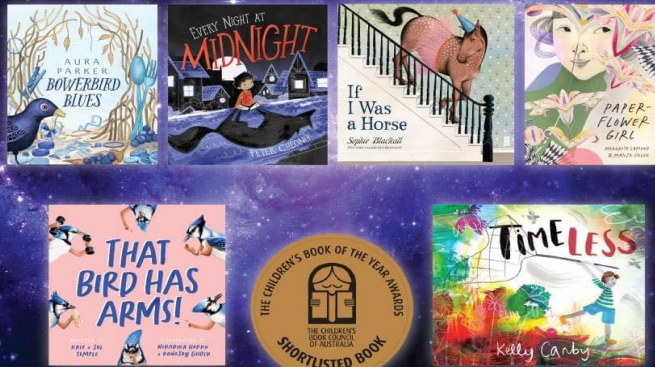
## on the **CBCA SHORT LIST** for **PICTURE BOOKS**



### 2024 Short List NOTABLY NSW COVERS

- *Bowerbird Blues* - Aura Parker, [NSW] (Scholastic Australia)
- *Paper-flower Girl* - Mateja Jager [ VIC/ NSW], written by Margrete Lamond [NSW] , (WestWords)
- *That Bird Has Arms* -Ronojoy Ghosh [NSW] & Niharika Hukku, written by Kate Temple [NSW] & Jol Temple [NSW] (Hardie Grant CP)

### CBCA Book of the Year Awards Picture Book of the Year Shortlist 2024



### 2024 CBCA PICTURE BOOK OF THE YEAR

- *Bowerbird Blues* - Aura Parker [NSW] (Scholastic Australia)
- *Every Night at Midnight* - Peter Cheong [WA] (Affirm)
- *If I Was a Horse* - Sophie Blackall [VIC] (Lothian)
- *Paper-flower Girl* - Mateja Jager [VIC/NSW] written by Margrete Lamond [NSW] (WestWords)
- *That Bird Has Arms* -Ronojoy Ghosh [NSW]& Niharika Hukku, written by Kate Temple [NSW] & Jol Temple [NSW] (Hardie Grant CP)
- *Timeless* - Kelly Canby [WA] (Fremantle Press)

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



**SUE LAWSON**

*Imagining everything...*



**DIANNE LUCAS**

*This is my favourite story...*



**JODIE McLEOD**

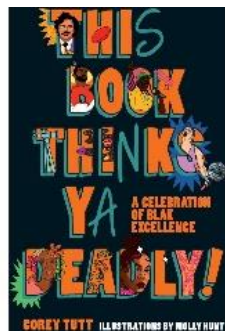
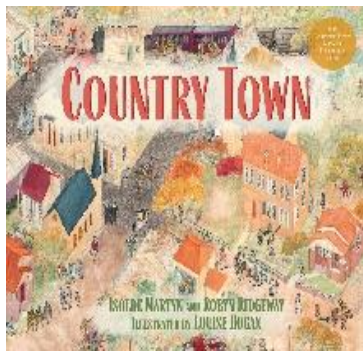
*...and with this magic wand you can do ANYTHING!*



**NOTABLY NSW**  
books for 2024



**on the CBCA SHORT LIST  
for EVE POWNALL (Information Books)**



**2024 Short List  
NOTABLY NSW COVERS**

- *Country Town* - Isolde Martyn [NSW] & Robyn Ridgeway [NSW], illustrated by Louise Hogan [NSW], (Ford Street)
- *This Book Thinks Ya Deadly!* – Corey Tutt [NSW], illustrated by Molly Hunt [WA] (Hardie Grant Explore)



**2024 CBCA EVE POWNALL AWARD**

- *Australia: Country of Colour* - Jess Racklyeft [VIC] (Affirm)
- *Country Town* - Isolde Martyn & Robyn Ridgeway, illustrated by Louise Hogan, (Ford Street) [All NSW]
- *Eww Gross: Foul facts and putrid pictures* - Dan Marshall [ ] (Pantera)
- *Our Country: Where history happened* - Mark Greenwood [WA] illustrated by Frané Lessac [ ] (Walker Books)
- *Tamarra* - Violet Wadrill, Topsy Dodd Ngarnjal & Leah Leaman, illustrated by Cecelia Edwards, Cassandra Algy, Felicity Meakins, Briony Barr & Gregory Crocetti (Hardie Grant Explore)
- *This Book Thinks Ya Deadly!* - Corey Tutt [NSW] illustrated by Molly Hunt [ WA] (Hardie Grant Explore)

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

<p><b>JACKIE HOSKING</b> <i>Reading, stores ,words – ALL ...full of MAGIC!</i></p>	<p><b>REBECCA FRASER</b> <i>And the next one I want to read is...</i></p>	<p><b>TANIA INGRAM</b> <i>Ideas swirled everywhere, sweeping her to a new dimension.</i></p>

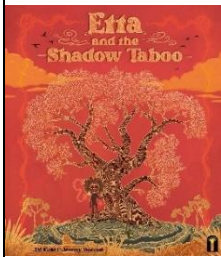




**NOTABLY NSW**  
books for 2024



## on the 2024 CBCA SHORT LIST for NEW ILLUSTRATORS



### 2024 Short List NOTABLY NSW COVER

. *Etta and the Shadow Taboo* - Jeremy Worrall [NSW] written by Jared M Field [NSW] (Bright Light)



### 2024 CBCA AWARD FOR NEW ILLUSTRATOR

- *Etta and the Shadow Taboo* - Jeremy Worrall [NSW] written by J M Field [NSW] (Bright Light)
- *Grace and Mr. Milligan* - Pip Kruger [SA] written by Caz Goodwin [VIC/ QLD] (Marshall Cavendish)
- *Hope Is the Thing* - Erica Wagner [VIC] written by Johanna Bell [NT/ TAS] (A&U Children's)
- *Phonobet* - Kim Drane [VIC] written by Kathy Weeden [NSW] (NLA Publishing)
- *Raised by Moths* - Michelle Conn [NSW/ Vic] written by Charlie Archbold [SA/ ACT] (Midnight Sun)
- *When You're a Boy* - Blake Nuto [TAS] (Affirm)

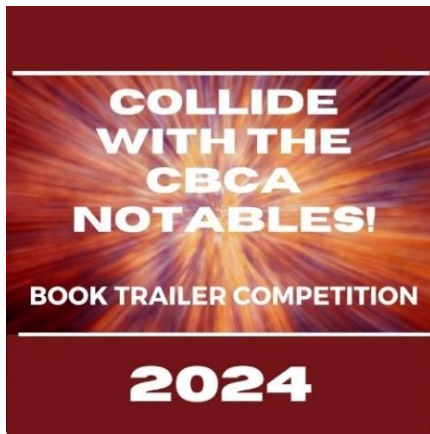
## What in the world (or beyond) is THIS?

Attribute this image  
Photographer: Robert Zugaro  
Museums Victoria



<https://collections.museumsvictoria.com.au/specimens/2357151>

Museums Victoria blobfish image (*Psychrolutes microporos*) Came into collections in 2017



## COLLIDE

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

- Choose one of the CBCA Notable books for 2024.
- Make a book trailer.
- Meet the COLLIDE Judges:  
Deb Abela, Tristan Bancks and Nathan Luff.

### “The NEWS” with DEB ABELA

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

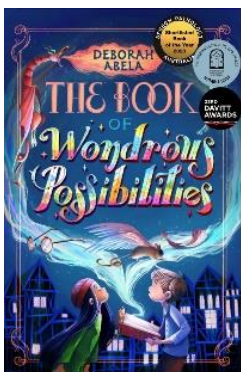
### READING IS MAGIC ... with possibilities and projects

I have always loved books. From my earliest memories, they’ve offered whole worlds of possibilities and been a safe haven when I’ve felt lost.

When I started thinking about kids who also love books, I had the image of an orphan called Arlo who lives with his uncle in a bookshop he rarely leaves because he finds the world frightening.

One day, a girl bursts into the shop. She needs his help and gives him a book called a *grimoire*. Popular in 18th century France, grimoires were said to have special properties, and in this grimoire is a story written by Arlo’s mum that will change his life.

***The Book of Wondrous Possibilities*** (Puffin) is about friendship and family and Arlo finding out he is much braver than he ever thought possible. Oh, and a very cute Skymouse is part of the story.



Here is the trailer: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BsWqmTNXN9o>

If you’d like to make your own trailer, you can enter the COLLIDE competition, where we are keen to find this year’s best book trailers.

Make sure you write an intriguing script, with engaging music and images that make us desperate to read the book.

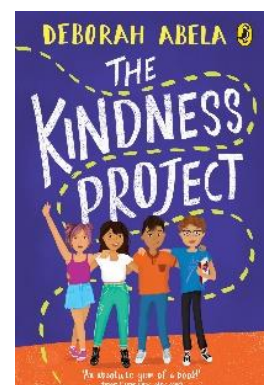
– Deb Abela

Deb’s latest book, ***The Kindness Project*** (Puffin) is about four kids who overcome their differences to take on the world.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BsWqmTNXN9o&authuser=0>

Find more of Deb’s trailers here: <https://www.deborahabela.com/videos>

Where’s Herbert?

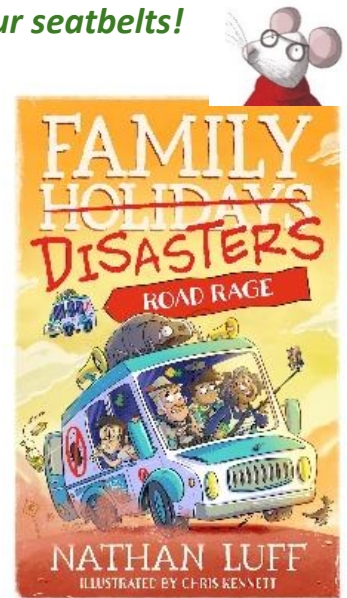




**COLLIDE with ...**  
**“The NEWS” with**  
**NATHAN LUFF**  
<https://nathanluff.com.au/>  
**about**  
**FAMILY HOLIDAYS**  
**DISASTERS**

(Scholastic Australia Pty Ltd)

*Fasten your seatbelts!*



*The 3<sup>rd</sup> Family Holidays Disasters* book has just been released. This one is titled *Road Rage*. It is the conclusion to an epic holiday that Jakob, his parents, and his frenemy Jodie have taken.

At first, they were stranded on a volcanic island, then they were caught at sea during a cyclone. Now in book three, Jakob’s parents decide they are going to travel the remainder of the way home via car.

This sounds sensible but due to recent storms, many of the roads are flooded and the path home is not a smooth and easy one. This is one family holiday where everything that could go wrong *does* go wrong.

*The Family Disasters* series features one of my favourite characters- Jodie. She is obsessed with Jakob and—nightmare alert! - she is invited along on the holiday to keep him company. Jodie is completely quirky—she’s fascinated with snails, collects balls of human hair, and plays the recorder whenever she feels like it—but she doesn’t care that other people make fun of her. I wish I could have been so confident as a kid!

While her obsession with Jakob causes him no end of embarrassment and discomfort, over the course of the three books there are tender moments as Jakob discovers there is more to Jodie than first meets the eye.

I love peeling back the layers of a character and the joy of writing a series is that the more time you spend with your characters, the more you can explore and discover about them. I must say, I knew a few girls like Jodie when I was a kid. And now, I feel like I understand them more. – *Nathan Luff*

You can see the trailer at: <http://nathanluff.com.au/book/family-disasters-road-rage/>

## **The “NEWS” with Hints for making Book Trailers - Nathan Luff**

There are heaps of really cool book trailers that look like film trailers. They have dramatic music, and they totally make you want to read the book.

For *Road Rage* though, I decided on a different approach. I decided to go completely low-fi and make something that was funny and looked bad on purpose. Rather than give away the plot of the book, I wanted to communicate that the book was funny. I wanted people to remember the name.

So, my son and I created this video where I pretended to drive and tell people about my new book but I'm continually getting distracted and angry at the traffic around me. While I'm "driving", my son crawled beside the car holding up things like branches and stop signs and making it look like they were zooming past the car. We even pass by the illustrator of the book—Chris Kennett <https://chriskennett.com/> ---well, a version of him at least.

My tip is this:

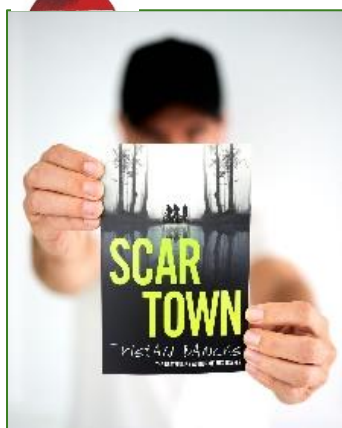
*Book trailers don't need to have big budgets or be fancy looking—sometimes you can think creatively instead and make something that captures the tone of the book and simply puts a smile on people's faces (hopefully). – Nathan Luff*

## TRISTAN BANCKS' LATEST BOOK, SCAR TOWN



<https://www.tristanbancks.com/scar-town> is in "**The NEWS**"

as a Short- Listed book in the Younger Readers' category.



*Can kids solve the complicated mystery, history and secrets of a flooded town?*

Check the interview here:

<https://www.tristanbancks.com/2023/08/the-scar-town-author-interview.html>

Tristan will share more results of his investigations in the next issue.

**The State Library of NSW ...  
has something for EVERYONE!**  
<https://www.sl.nsw.gov.au/visit-us>



Image <https://www.sl.nsw.gov.au/visit-us>



## SHADOW JUDGING

<https://shadowjudging.cbca.org.au/>

- Read the shortlisted titles.
- Discuss, Decide and Vote - which one is the best?
- Create a response to your favourite book in the form of a poem, poster, video, game, reviews, stories ...

### JOINING THE JUDGES...Shadow Judging at the State Library of NSW -with thanks to Susan and Pauline & the State Library of NSW

#### Forming the group

We offered the opportunity to be a shadow judge to our Young Writers Club and Book Lovers Members. Children wanting to apply completed an application form asking them about the kinds of books they like to read, their age, and why they think they would be a good shadow judge.

Communication with applicants was always through their parent/guardian, and for privacy, children could not use their own email address. Dates and times were set for Zoom Meeting discussions so that everyone in the team could participate.

We waited until the shortlist was announced and looked closely at each book on the shortlist prior to deciding on the group. We had some younger readers apply (age 7-9) and we did not feel that the themes and issues addressed in some of the shortlist were appropriate for that age group.



We emailed all parents of the selected children the information about each shortlisted book and asked them to read the descriptions provided by the CBCA and give permission for their child to read the books. We offered them the opportunity to opt out of any of the books if they felt could be problematic for their child.

#### The Books

We arranged with the Library Shop to order and post out copies of each of the shortlisted books to the children and emailed families with the schedule for reading and discussion.

#### Zoom sessions

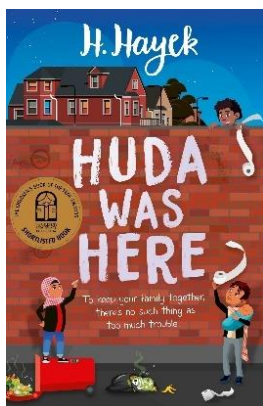
We use a Zoom webinar. The shadow judges enter their comments into the Q&A, this is then saved for reference after the session.

The first session was a training session.

I read a sample book [*When Granny Came to Stay* by Alice Pung (Pan MacMillan)] to the children, and then we applied the CBCA criteria to that story as a practice run before they needed to use the criteria for the shortlisted books.

During the sessions, we go through the CBCA judging criteria one item at a time, and the shadow judging group put their ideas into the Q&A. As the presenter on screen, I guide the conversation-keeping shadow judges on topic and asking them to explain their ideas. I read out their responses and encouraged them to bounce ideas off one another.

The final part of each zoom requires the shadow judges to give the book a rating out of 10 with a reason. (with thanks to Susan and Pauline)



### COMMENTS FROM SHADOW JUDGES - compiled by Susan. [regarding *Huda was Here* by H Hayek (Allen & Unwin Children) [2024 CBCA Shortlist Younger Readers]

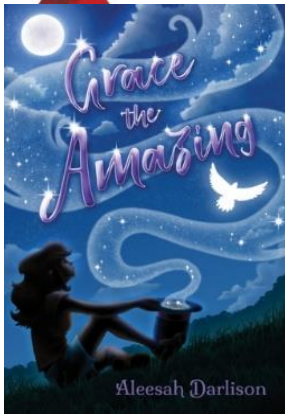
- The reader's first impression of Huda is a headstrong, confident young girl who seems determined to stick to her plan and even drag her reluctant brother into it, who doesn't quite think that this is the best way to go. For example, on page 16, Huda seems to know exactly what she's doing, whereas Akeal seems more anxious than anything else.
- The language used was a good reflection of everyday language spoken and how they would interact with others. They use nicknames for each other. Akeal would call Huda 'Buds' and Huda would call Akeal 'Akeaw'. It is a real reflection of someone living in a Lebanese-Muslim family, in that both languages would be spoken at home.
- It goes backwards and forwards in time. It jumps around for the whole story. It starts and finishes at the end and leaves you at a cliff hanger at the end of the first chapter. The author keeps it moving by coming up with new, exciting and crazy plans and the characters do them. There is sometimes a near capture, but they always get away until the end of the story. Then she tells a bit about what happens next in their normal life and then writes the dialogue where they come up with the next plan then the next part of the plot happens.
- The gradual revealing of the backstory kept me in suspense. It was a little confusing, but it was quite enjoyable.
- I think choosing Akeal as the narrator was good because choosing Huda would have meant that perhaps you might have been forced to think that choosing those plans was the only course open to them. But choosing Akeal as the narrator let your a sense of the ridiculous have a part in enjoying the story and the plans. And you still hear Huda's opinions through the dialogue.
- 7.5/10 because the layered themes and the Australian Setting make it really relatable

## WHAT'S NEW? in "The NEWS" ?

"The NEWS" is all about new books, full of characters who shape their worlds and may even change our minds about our own worlds. How do they make sense of identity, friendships, independence, family, individuality ... ? ? ?



*\*Can you be “different” AND ‘perfect’?  
Or could GRACE, THE AMAZING be a different kind of “perfect”.*



## “The AMAZING NEWS” from ALEESAH DARLISON

<http://www.aleesahdarlison.com/novels.html>

about

### GRACE, THE AMAZING ([Wombat Books](#))



Like many 11-year-olds, Grace Marshall is struggling to straddle that divide between childhood and independent young woman. While she would like to be seen as *Grace the Awesome*, *Grace the Incredible* and *Grace the Miraculous*, she believes others have a different view of her, particularly her mum, a zookeeper who is juggling work and home almost as a solo parent.

A chance remark to the “most popular girl in school” some time ago means she appears to have no friends at school, her little brother is a pain, and while her dad loves her to bits, she misses him terribly, he is a FIFO worker only home one week in four.

Grace recognises that she is “different” perhaps eccentric, certainly straight-talking, a girl of “many moods [and] many colours” but never boring. Sadly, she also believes that being “just Grace” is never enough. Currently, her passion is doing magic as she strives to be known as Grace the Amazing, and when she discovers her one true friend at school is Pamela, her art teacher, has been away for the past few weeks because she has terminal cancer, Grace is determined to find the magic to fix her.

Even though the reader secretly hopes for a different, miraculous ending, there can be only one. This is an engaging, endearing story of how a child deals with the news and its consequences. At the same time, Grace learns much about herself and life, love and friendship.

From a little boy in a foster family with a weird name, to Dr Granger the Stranger, to Emma who she thought despised her, to Pamela herself, this is a coming-of-age story that will resonate with many who also feel isolated, a misfit and misunderstood, as once again, Aleesah has created credible characters who could be the kids we know and so the reader fits right into the story.

In a [Q&A](#) with fellow reviewer TL Sue Warren, Aleesah says:

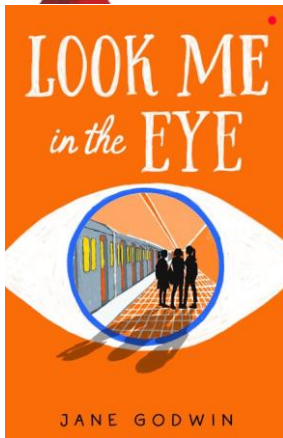
*“A great story often starts with a simple idea. Ideas for stories bombard me each and every day. Ideas are everywhere I go. In everything I see and do. And in everything I hear.*

*If you’re interested in writing stories, you can find ideas in the world around you too. You see, stories abound in all the many subtle nuances of our life – you just have to keep your eyes and ears and mind open to them...”*

Given the dedications in this book, there is a suggestion that this story is more than one of imagination -it’s one of those ideas that Aleesah has seen or lived, and that, in itself, gives it a reality and poignancy that is going to have wide appeal. – *Aleesah Darlison*



*\*Who knows where you are? Who can you trust?*



## The “NEWS” ... with JANE GODWIN

[www.janegodwin.com.au](http://www.janegodwin.com.au)

**LOOK ME IN THE EYE** (Lothian) is about three girls starting secondary school in the year after the Covid pandemic. Bella and Connie are best friends, and they live in the same suburb on the outskirts of Melbourne. When Connie’s older cousin Mish moves into the area, she starts to disrupt things, with dramatic results...

The story is about friendship, trust, and growing up in a post-pandemic world. It’s about the ways in which the lockdowns affected us all, and it also explores ideas around surveillance, freedom and privacy.

Talking with the young people I know (and their parents!), I’ve been surprised and alarmed by the level of tracking that seems ‘normal’. Young people are often frustrated or angry that their parents keep tabs on them, and the kids feel they have a right to some privacy. Their parents say that it’s for their own good that their kids are tracked with apps on phones or other devices. I think it’s an interesting dilemma for kids today, and I found myself asking whether we have a right to know everything about the people we love. I suppose it comes down to the notion of *trust* – *how do we trust, and what happens when trust is violated?*



Bella is an only child who lives with her mother, Cara, and her mother’s partner, Pete. Bella and her family live an unconventional life – they avoid spending money, and Pete’s job of trading old toys is so different from the jobs of Bella’s friends’ parents.

Connie is Bella’s best friend. Her family is more conventional than Bella’s. Connie has a little sister, June, who was born prematurely and has some health complications.

Mish is Connie’s cousin. Mish is dishonest, and difficult – but she’s also vulnerable and lonely. Her father keeps tabs on her using various tracking devices, and the more he tracks her, the more risks Mish takes. Bella and Connie get caught up in Mish’s deceit and her father’s obsessive surveillance, and it all builds to a dramatic climax. -Jane Godwin

**Look Me in the Eye** by Jane Godwin (Lothian / Hachette Childrens)

JANE GODWIN - Website [www.janegodwin.com.au](http://www.janegodwin.com.au) Instagram - @janiegodwin

To hear more from Jane on *Look Me in the Eye* and her other novels, go to:



<https://www.hachette.com.au/news/get-to-know-jane-godwin>





Who are you really?

“The NEWS”...  
with KATE GORDON  
about  
**ESME IN THE  
LIMELIGHT**  
(Riveted Press)



By [Kate Gordon](https://kategordon.com.au/) <https://kategordon.com.au/>

When I started writing *Aster’s Good, Right Things* – way back in 2015! I didn’t know that the inner world of Aster would expand to encompass a whole community.

But as Aster grew and bloomed within her story, the people who surrounded her became more bright and vivid, too. I loved meeting Xavier and Indigo and I especially loved meeting Esme.

While Aster was very much “child me”, I saw a lot of “teenage me” in Esme – the love of drama, the satisfaction I found in my part-time job, my experimentation with who I was and how I presented, and my deep insecurities. I always knew I wanted to tell her story. She is so much more than the bright-haired girl who makes milkshakes! When it came time to tell her story, I became completely immersed. I became so invested in her hopes and dreams for the future, so absolutely committed to helping her find self-love, so she could move boldly in the direction of her wildest, most precious life.

My hope for her, the whole way through, was that she could see herself the way others see her, and to find joy and personal satisfaction in whatever she chose to pursue. I want that for everyone!

I have been told that I write in a style that’s poetic. I definitely feel a rhythm move through me as I’m writing. My background is in poetry and theatre, and I think I’ve always been very influenced by the melodies of both poetry and drama.

I can hear the words like a song in my head as I write.

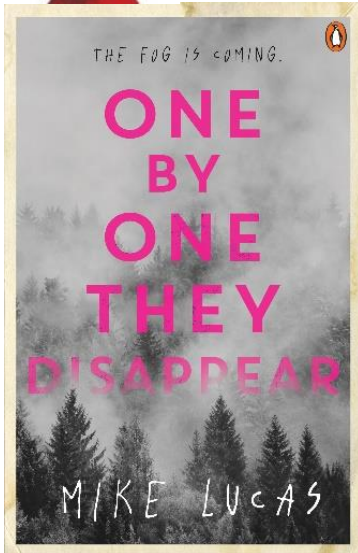
I like to play with narrative styles, and I find that losing myself in the music of the words helps me work through the issues in the narrative. It’s hard to describe – it feels like I can more deeply unpick the problems and challenges of the characters if I weave them into something like a song. That sounds incredibly “arts major”, but it’s the only way that works for me.

Our lives are a song we sing to ourselves, and each of my characters is singing to their own rhythm and melody. I hope you like listening to Esme’s song! – *Kate Gordon*  
**-Esme in the Limelight** is a companion novel sharing aspects of characters with Kate's other books:





*Will anyone remember the children who disappear, one by one...*



*“The NEWS” as...*

## **ONE BY ONE THEY DISAPPEAR**

**By**

**MIKE LUCAS**

[www.mikelucas.com.au](http://www.mikelucas.com.au)



**(Penguin)**

<https://www.penguin.com.au/books/one-by-one-they-disappear-9781761049866>

Most of the book is set in Germany in 1942, but it begins 130 years earlier with some brothers who were famous for collecting and recording fairy tales.

In 1942, Hannah Ginsberg, after losing her parents from an Allied bombing campaign, is on a train to the mountains to live with a stranger, Maud Meyer, under the guise of being her niece. Believing she has escaped from the terrors of the Nazi regime, she befriends two boys in the village of Flashover. But she soon finds out that there is no escape and, when something inexplicable happens, Hannah needs to find the truth behind the mystery.

Throughout her journey, the readers see Hannah become stronger as she is forced to confront the dangers facing her and the world around her.

There are a few twists in the story and not everybody may be what they at first seem.

*I'm a pantsner, not a plotter, [a writer that does not plot prior to writing but instead prefers to "fly by the seat of their pants."] so, anything that surprises the reader also surprised me, as the writer. But I always think that makes the story more dynamic and, obviously, less predictable.*

The book is aimed at readers aged 12 plus. And it does carry a warning due to the time and place of setting.

And, though this is a work of fiction, there was a lot of research and editing carried out to ensure the backstory follows real world events as closely as possible. Often, people don't realise how much editing goes into the finished book, and I have my editor at Penguin Australia to thank for helping to turn the original manuscript into the final, polished novel. - *Mike Lucas*



*I'll bet you can...I bet you can't...How did you do that? ... It's magic!*



## The “NEWS” with Belinda Murrell <https://belindamurrell.com.au/> about ... *The DAREDEVIL PRINCESS SERIES* (Penguin)

My new series includes four magical junior fiction books *The Daredevil Princess and The Golden Unicorn*, *The Daredevil Princess and The Goblin King*, *The Daredevil Princess and The Fire Dragon* and *The Daredevil Princess and The Grumpy Giant* with gorgeous illustrations by Rebecca Crane.

The Daredevil Princess is set in a fun, fairytale world, with a modern twist, filled with magic, daring adventures, and a very sassy unicorn called Honey Blossom. Crown Princess Tillie is brave and bold, clever and curious, daring and very determined. While Queen Cordelia is working hard to solve the problems of the queendom of Blumenfeld, and King Edwin is in his laboratory creating disastrous magical inventions, Princess Tillie is off solving mysteries and having thrilling adventures with the royal dachshunds, a mysterious rose thief, a band of naughty goblins, a grumpy giant and a feisty fire dragon.

Although she is a princess, who lives in a gorgeous palace, Crown Princess Tillie is a thoroughly modern and ordinary girl. She loses her temper, breaks the rules, runs late, bosses her younger brother, gets dirty and sometimes finds her lessons frustrating but she always tries to be kind and brave. She was very much inspired by my own daughter Emily who loved dressing up as a brave princess or intrepid adventurer, always with her muddy riding boots.

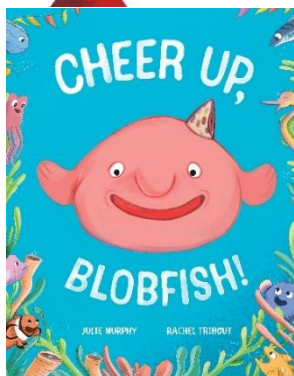


The world of Blumenfeld and Rosenberg Palace was inspired by my lifelong love of fairy tales and magical creatures, but particularly about a special real-life fairy tale place called Gersbach. When I was 22, I worked for three months as a stable girl on a beautiful Bavarian farm, surrounded by an enchanted forest. The nearby walled town of Coburg was filled with gingerbread houses, cobbled laneways, a medieval castle and the gorgeous royal palaces of Ehrenburg and Rosenau. I felt like I was living in a fairy tale. - Belinda Murrell

\* *And here is the **BEAUTIFUL BLOBFISH NEWS ...to cheer you up.***



*The clownfish tells some funny gags, the sawfish does magic tricks and the dolphin swims loop-the-loops, but no-one can make Blobfish happy. Or can they?*



## **CHEER UP, BLOBFISH!**

**with Julie Murphy**

<https://juliemurphybooks.com/>

and

**Rachel Tribout, Illustrator**

[www.racheltribout.com](http://www.racheltribout.com) | [linktree](#)

**(Affirm Press)**

: <https://affirmpress.com.au/browse/book/Julie-Murphy,-illustrated-by-Rachel-Tribout-Cheer-up,-Blobfish!-9781922863966>

### **JULIE MURPHY – Understanding Blobfish**

It's the Festival of Fish – the biggest party of the year! Everyone seems to be having a great time ... except for Blobfish. Can the other fish make Blobfish smile?

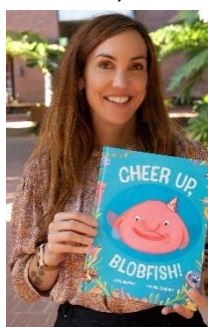
Featuring energetic rhyme, joyful illustrations and some fascinating blobfish facts, *Cheer Up, Blobfish!* is a celebration of difference starring one VERY misunderstood sea creature.

The story was inspired by a visit to the Museum, where a droopy-looking blobfish in jar was getting huge reactions from visitors. I experimented writing the story in prose and short, rhyming quatrains. The latter gave a better sense of fun, more suited to the joyful setting.

Blobfish are not actually blobby at all in their natural habitat, deep on the ocean floor. It's only when caught in trawling nets and brought to the surface that the decreased pressure makes their bodies sag. So blobfish are both misnamed and misunderstood!

I am a former zoologist and zookeeper who first fell in love with picture books as a stay-at-home mum. I now combine all my loves by writing children's nature books with heart. For example, *Odd Bods: The World's Unusual Animals* (Millbrook Press, 2021) has the theme that everyone has a special place in this world.

Whether fact or fiction, I always try to hook the reader and keep them engaged. I love using word play and various writing styles; always aiming to hook readers on books, learning and nature. - Julie Murphy



### **RACHEL TRIBOUT –**

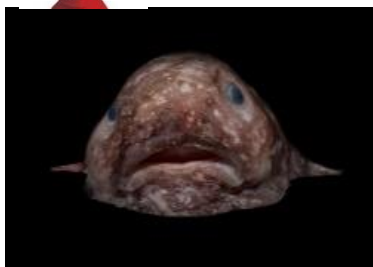
***"I enjoyed drawing Blobby a lot!"***

*When it came to character design, I found it fun to transform such a droopy-faced character into something cute and appealing to children. From a visual storytelling perspective, what fascinated me was that Blobby, despite being the hero character, isn't actively engaged in the action as you would typically expect. Instead, everything happens around him as he remains silent and seemingly*

*gloomy. I found it compelling to depict a lot of movement outside of the blobfish to create contrast. I always feel that the underwater world moves differently, with a sense of calm. Therefore, I focused on bringing movement into the composition itself and displaying a range of emotions in the other characters to enhance this contrast. It was a lot of fun to draw the fish, their activities and their attempts at cheering Blobby!*



## Everyone is beautiful – love from Blobby!



Attribute this image with thanks to:

Photographer: Robert Zugaro

Museums Victoria

<https://collections.museums victoria.com.au/specimens/2357151>

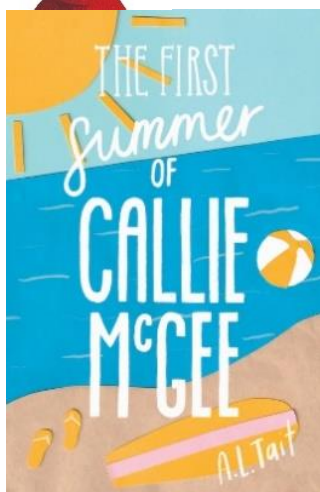
Museums Victoria blobfish image (*Psychrolutes microporos*) Came into collections in 2017



Modified photo



*Some people “think” they have all the answers. Others (like Calliope-Jean/ Callie/ CJ) try to find the right questions to ask.*



## The “NEWS” ... with ALISON TAIT

### *The SUMMER OF CALLIE McGEE*

(Scholastic Australia)

*THE FIRST SUMMER OF CALLIE McGEE* is a middle-grade mystery story about growing up, figuring things out, and solving the puzzle of who you are.

*It's the* last week of the summer holidays before Callie McGee starts high school and she's determined to change her nerdy reputation. But she's been dragged along to yet another 'family friends' holiday in the seaside village of Sawyer's Point, and nothing quite goes to plan.

In an attempt to be someone new, Callie agrees to work with Mitch and Owen to investigate a series of burglaries in Sawyer's Point. But when Sasha goes missing, Callie must draw on all her smarts to find her. Could it be that being Callie McGee has its benefits?

I wrote the beginning of this novel surrounded by 'family friends' when I was staying at a holiday house in a village very like Sawyer's Point. The adults were having a great time, but it was a different story for the kids, who didn't really have much in common.

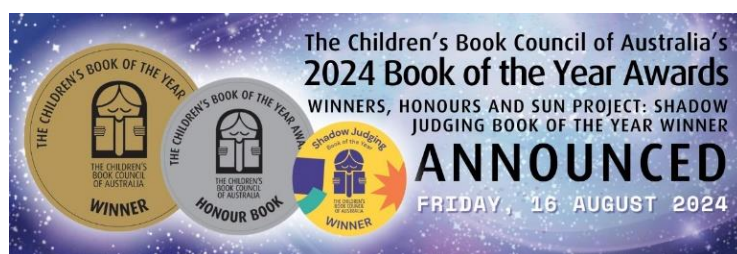
For someone like Callie, who is desperate to reinvent herself for grade seven, it's a nightmare situation. How do you become someone new when you're surrounded by people who've known you since you were a baby?

As soon as I 'met' Callie, sitting in the car, wondering about the many stories a holiday house might contain, I knew that she was a smart, thoughtful person with a big heart. The more the story unfolded, the more that sense of heart – her loyalty and her courage – grew, surprising me as much as it surprised Callie.



I don't think there's a single person alive who hasn't wished, even just for a moment, to be someone else. To be cooler, or smarter, or sportier, or more popular, or whatever. But, as Callie discovers, being yourself is always enough. And more. – Allison Tate

**A.L. Tait** is the author of **THE FIRST SUMMER OF CALLIE McGEE**, as well as three epic fantasy adventure series **The Mapmaker Chronicles**, **The Ateban Cipher** and the **Maven & Reeve Mystery series**. Find out more at [allisontait.com](http://allisontait.com)



*If you are a SHADOW Judge, you join the experts.*

## The **POW**er of poetry and MORE!



**Mike Lucas writes and makes magic with words for all ages.**

In this issue of **KC**, he shares his love of poetry and Children's Book Week with his annual poem related to the theme, *Reading is Magic*.



PLUS – he has just released a new book for YA with horror, history and mystery.

AND a new picture book with all kinds of surprising monsters. THANKS for all, Mike.



## **READING IS MAGIC ... AND SO IS POETRY**

**... With Mike LUCAS**



Writing poetry was how I began my career in children's literature. My family and I used to live in Switzerland, and I would read to my children every night when they were younger. They returned to the UK a month or so before me, and so I began writing funny poems to send to them instead. Eventually, I had enough to put into a self-published book, with all proceeds going to UNICEF.

Poetry can be used to capture a whole story, a quick anecdote or just a feeling or theme. And sometimes you don't have the time to write or read a long story. So, poetry can be a great way to get a writing fix, and also to capture the interest of children who may not have the time, willingness, or ability to concentrate on longer stories. And it can be a wonderful way to play and experiment with language, to break the rules. You can do things with poetry that you wouldn't get away with in a traditional tale.

I started writing poems based on the book week theme back in 2017. Since then, it has become a personal challenge to write a new poem every year and put them on my website for schools, libraries, anybody to download and use.

The CBCA is such a fabulous organisation, and it's my way of giving a little back.

This year's theme, of course, is *Reading is Magic*, and when you think about it, it truly is. Words have so much power that they can create new friends, paint pictures in your mind, and take you to places you would never otherwise visit, some that may not even exist in the universe we know.

**See more about Mike's poetry, novels, and picture books on-line.**

**-MIKE LUCAS** <https://www.mikelucas.com.au/>

**-Mike's other poems for Book Week** <https://www.mikelucas.com.au/book-week-poems.php>

# READING IS MAGIC

Can you please explain it?  
Can you tell me how  
Written words on a page  
Can take you from the now,  
From whoever you're with  
And wherever you are,  
To a time and a place  
That is further than far?



Is it some kind of science,  
Some engineered way  
That the words go together?  
Or is it that they  
Form a portal in space  
And in time in your mind  
That allows you to leave  
Everything else behind?



I have tried calculating,  
With physics and maths,  
How a story I'd read  
Led me straight down the path  
To adventure, excitement  
And mystery and fun.  
But it didn't add up.  
What it did can't be done.

So I took one apart,  
Took the story to bits,  
To find out if there's some  
Special way that it fits -  
If between all the lines  
There's a secret that's hidden.  
Do you think that I found it?  
That's right. No, I didn't.



I believe it is something  
We can't understand,  
Like a spell that is cast  
From the book in our hand  
To the brain in our head  
Through the words on the page,  
That gives each of us readers  
The mark of the mage.



There is only one rule –  
That you have to believe.  
That's the way to the station,  
Your ticket to leave.  
You can come back whenever  
You think that you should,  
Though it can be quite hard  
When the story is good.

So the only conclusion  
I take from all this  
(And it's something I ask  
That you do not dismiss)  
Is that reading is magic,  
Made from inspiration,  
Persistence and patience  
And imagination



Of wizards and witches  
And sorcerers who  
Are creators of stories  
And know what to do,  
How to boil the pot up,  
Add the things that they need,  
So that you can feel magic  
Each time that you read.

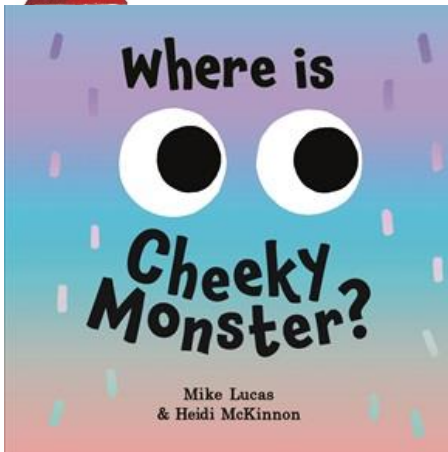
Words copyright © Mike Lucas 2024

[www.mikelucas.com.au](http://www.mikelucas.com.au)





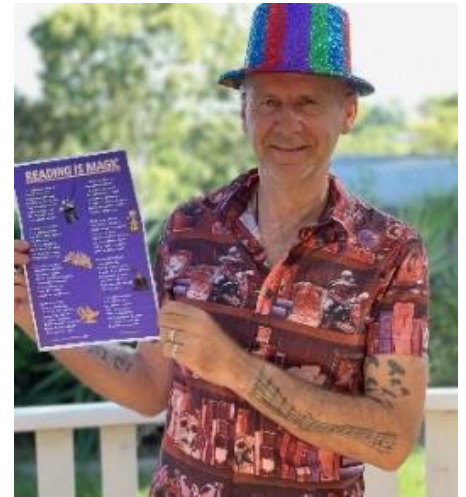
**What was the most fun about creating this book?**



## **WHERE IS CHEEKY MONKEY?**

(Penguin Australia)

by **MIKE LUCAS**



<https://www.mikelucas.com.au/where-is-cheeky-monster.php>

with **HEIDI MCKINNON, Illustrator**

<https://heidimckinnon.com/>

This book came about when my agent at the time asked if I could write something similar to *Where is the Green Sheep?* It was originally entitled *Cheeky Monkey* but was rejected by a few publishers because there were already a few Cheeky Monkey books on the market. So, I did the very complicated thing of changing one word.

The book teaches children about emotions and what the outcomes of these emotions can be, and one of the fun things about writing it was thinking up all these creatures and what they would be doing.

I always have fun making the lines rhyme too. And it was such a relief when I finally realised how the book would end – because picture books need a satisfying ending.

Then there was seeing the monsters come to life with Heidi's wonderfully colourful illustrations. They bring another level of interest and humour to the story and make it instantly appealing. - Mike Lucas



**2024 Theme: Reading is Magic Artist: Jess Racklyeft**



And today, I will write a **BOOK!**



**WABIAD** <https://writeabookinaday.com/>

**WRITE A BOOK IN A DAY**

**Kim Chapple**  
– Head of Campaigns

**Don't miss the chance to**  
**Write a Book in a Day!**



Write a Book in a Day challenges teams across Australia to write and illustrate a novel in just 12 hours to raise vital funds for kids' cancer research. You can register now for your team to enter their book by 30 September.

The competition encourages literacy, teamwork and resilience. It also fosters altruism, with sponsorship money fundraised going to childhood cancer research through [The Kids' Cancer Project](#). All books created for the project are shared with children in hospitals across Australia.

Registrations are now open.

Last day to write and fundraise is 30 September 2024.

If you have any questions, please call Kimberley on 02 8394 7711 or email [info@writeabookinaday.com](mailto:info@writeabookinaday.com).

Find out more at [writeabookinaday.com](http://writeabookinaday.com)

Enter a group to create a complete story. Each member of your team takes on various roles (author, illustrator, technology hub, editing, etc.) to collaborate and contribute to the creation of a story that includes certain themes and criteria. This all takes place within ONE day from start to finish.

Help make a difference. #writeabookinaday



## READ ON and ON and ON ...

Many thanks to **ALL** the authors and illustrators throughout Australia for creating characters and info that keep us reading on and on.

**KC** continues to feature the **"NEWS"**, **Poetry and more**, **Collide and Book Trailers**, **Story Starters**, and **Shadow judging**. There is so much to share because **READING IS MAGIC!** ... no matter **WHERE** you are from.

This issue of **KIDS' CORNER** <https://www.cbcanw.org.au/kids-corner> was compiled by Jackie Hawkes [Jackie.hawkes7@gmail.com](mailto:Jackie.hawkes7@gmail.com) with the help of LOTS of people who love reading, writing, thinking and imagining.

Special thanks to Morrie's cousin, **MaryAnne O'Mouse**, [aka **Anonymous**] for her help designing the June cover. AND helping juggle phrases and blurbs AND other aspects of layout with each issue.

**MaryAnne O'Mouse**, **Morrie** and **Magic Morrie** are always on the lookout for great ideas, stories, and surprises of news.

We would love to hear from you.

Happy reading always -

Cheers- Morrie, Magic Morrie, MaryAnne O'Mouse and Jackie

