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Our Commitment to Sustainability

Starfish Bay Publishing Group is dedicated to minimizing our environmental footprint. Every book in our catalog is printed on FSC® Mix certified paper, ensuring that our materials are sourced from responsibly managed forests that provide environmental, social, and economic benefits.

Children's Picture Book

Catalog



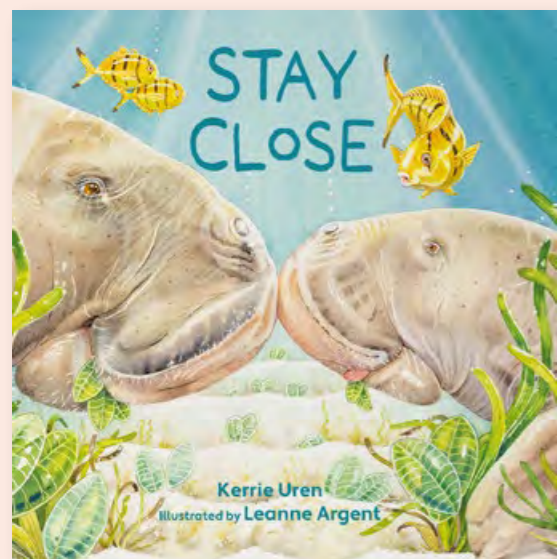
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Stay Close



Key Features:

- Explores the issue of food loss in ocean biomes, following a mother dugong and her calf as they travel the real-life journey dugongs make to a sanctuary where seagrass still thrives.
- The gripping action points demonstrate the dangers dugongs face from human activity.
- Stunning seascape spreads illustrate beauty and diversity of the ocean and contextualize what is at stake if we do not protect our sea creatures.

Kerrie Uren & Leanne Argent
Children's Picture Book
Hardcover | 40 pages | 978-1-76036-189-1
Trim Size: 10.0" H x 10.0" W
List Price: \$18.95
Publisher: Starfish Bay® Publishing

Genre: Environmental Fiction / Animal Story
Reading Level: Grade 2-3
Interest Level: Grades K-4
Guided Reading Level: M
Lexile® Measure: 520L
Accelerated Reader® Level/Points: 2.8/0.5

Themes:

- Environmental degradation and pollution
- Mother-child bond and protection
- Migration and survival journey
- Habitat loss and conservation
- Courage in face of danger
- Following parental guidance and safety
- Hope and new beginnings
- Marine ecosystem awareness
- Human impact on wildlife
- Perseverance through challenges

Roly and Mum must find a new home where seagrass still grows abundantly, but the journey promises to be perilous.

A peaceful bay once brimmed with dugongs, but now it's only Roly and his mum. Pollution has killed all the food, and everyone else has moved away. Starving from the scarce seagrass, Mum tells Roly that soon, when he is old enough, they will set out in search of a haven for dugongs like them where seagrass still thrives. But the journey is perilous, she warns. To survive, he must stay close. Stunning seascape illustrations serve as a reminder of the hidden beauty that we could lose.

Working as a Teacher Aide, often reading with students and seeing the joy books brought to the children, **Kerrie Uren** knew she wanted to write a book of her own for children to enjoy. Kerrie knows the importance of keeping our oceans healthy to ensure the survival of the animals that call it home, and she believes picture books are not only a joy for the reader but a valuable learning tool. With a love of the ocean and a passion for animals, Kerrie feels very lucky to live on the doorstep of Moreton Bay in Queensland, Australia, where wildlife abounds.

Leanne Argent is an illustrator and artist based in South Australia. Leanne realized her passion for illustration when she created a children's book while at high school. The support, encouragement and excitement that followed has led to Leanne illustrating over fifty children's books, mostly in watercolor. Her love for people and the environment is displayed beautifully within her illustrations.



Ned Needs to Build



Key Features:

- A delightful story about creativity and teamwork that encourages children to work and play together.
- Demonstrates friendly behavior and sharing play ideas.
- Whimsical illustrations that complement the joys of building and playing co-operatively.

Ned and Sam enjoy building, and together they fill their home with creativity.

Ned loves building incredible depictions of cities with his wooden blocks, but they are often knocked down by his brother, Sam. When Sam rebuilds the blocks, Ned ponders on what the constructions are. When visiting the local park, Ned notices strange objects and finds that they are called sculptures. Ned then realizes how he and his brother can team up to build the perfect city together. Whack! Bang! Crash! is a joyous story about creativity, teamwork, and sibling bonds and features whimsical illustrations that reveal the joy of sharing ideas and playing with others.

Rhonda Ooi & Maria Kristjansdottir
Children's Picture Book
Hardcover | 40 pages | 978-1-80036-082-2
Trim Size: 8.5" H x 10.3" W
List Price: \$18.95
Publisher: Starfish Bay® Publishing

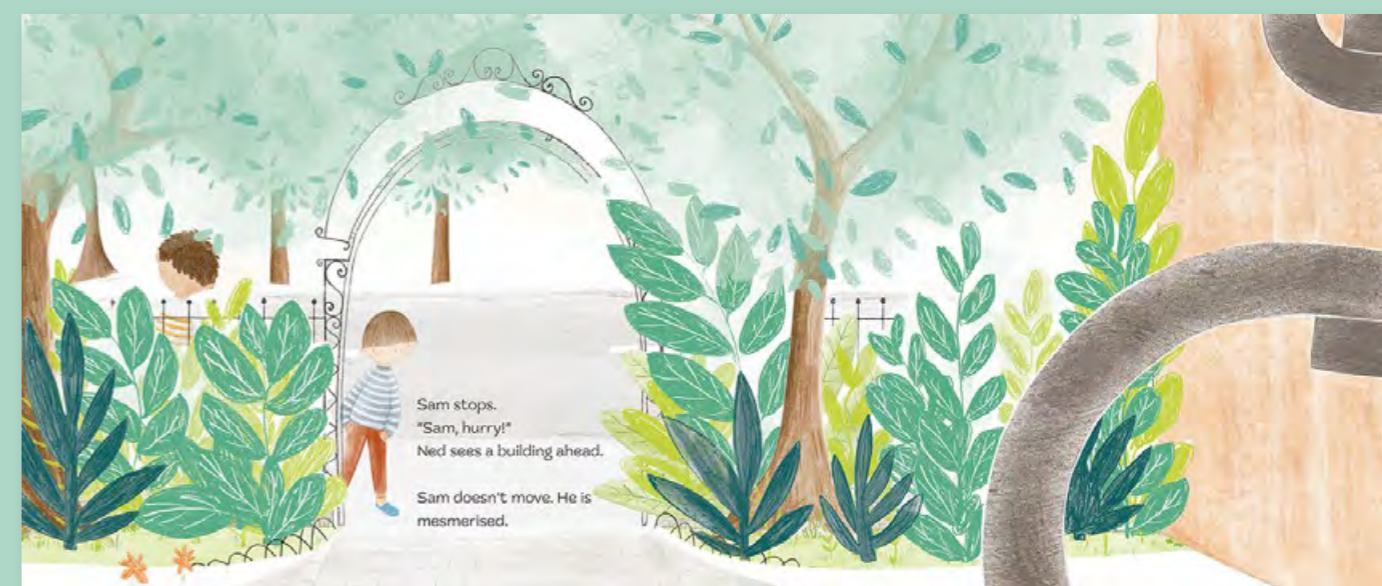
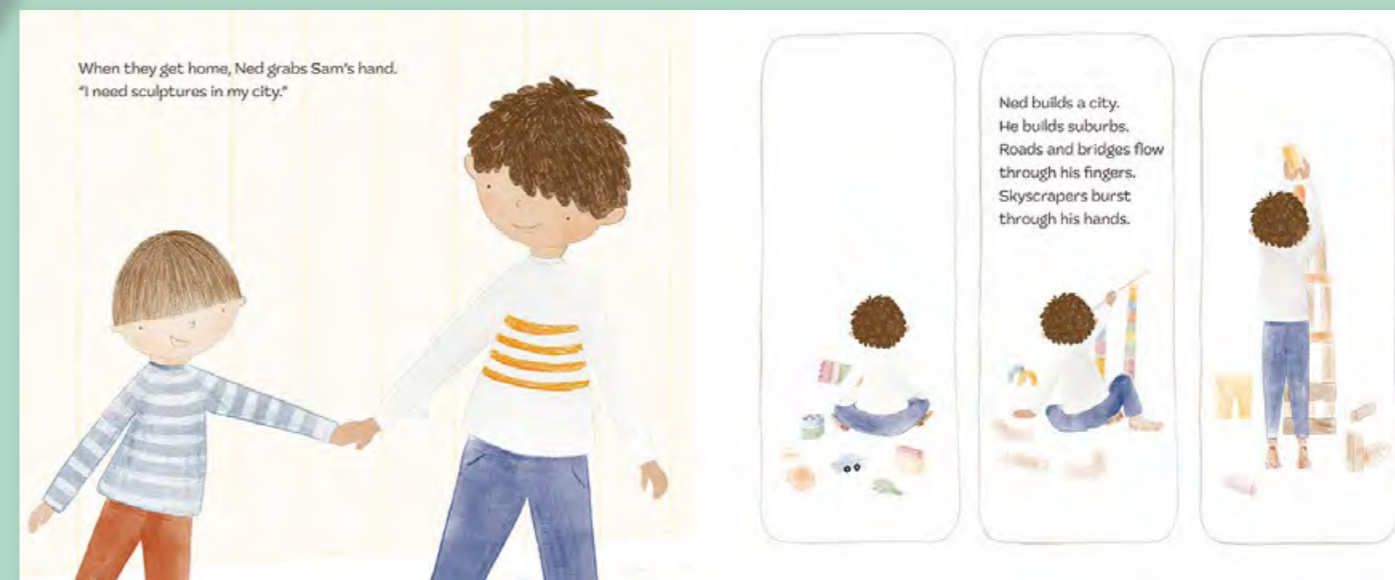
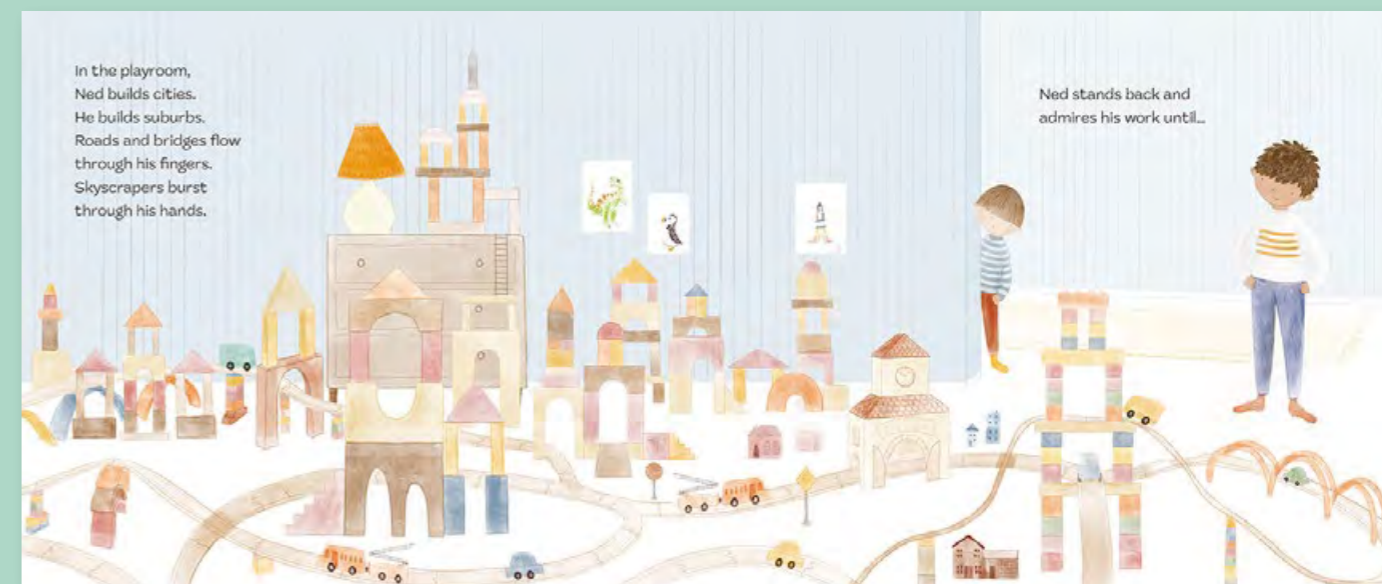
Genre: Realistic Fiction / Family Story
Reading Level: Grade 1-2
Interest Level: Grades PreK-3
Guided Reading Level: J
Lexile® Measure: 460L
Accelerated Reader® Level/Points: 2.3/0.5

Rhonda Ooi is an author and primary school teacher with a Master of Gifted Education. She lives in Victoria, Australia, by the bay with her husband, son, cat, bird, and hundreds of children's books. When she is not working out how to fit more picture books on her enormous bookshelf, she is imagining stories, inspired by the children in her life.

Themes:

- Collaboration and teamwork
- Sibling relationships and acceptance
- Creativity and artistic expression
- Learning to see value in others' contributions
- Different perspectives/ways of creating
- Growth and change
- Letting go of control
- Finding beauty in unexpected places
- Patience and understanding
- The creative process

Maria Kristjansdottir is an illustrator born and raised in Reykjavik, Iceland. She has a BA in architecture from Iceland University of the Arts, but her passion for creating children's stories led her to change directions, and in 2018, she graduated from Cambridge School of Art with an MA in Children's Book Illustration. She currently resides in Iceland with her partner and their daughter.



Sharkfin and the School of Fish

When Sharkfin's new schoolmates seem afraid of him, he must learn that true friends should like him for who he is.

Sharkfin's starting school, but all the other fish seem afraid of him. When he gives them gifts, they swim away. When he does tricks, he fumbles, and they laugh at him. But with some words from his parents and a chance to reach out to a new friend, Sharkfin might just learn that friends should love him for who he is and not what he brings them.



Key Features:

- Follow Sharkfin on his first days of school – a great story for appeasing that early anxiety.
- Practical moral lessons on how to form friendships in an engaging and fun format.
- Serene surroundings with cute ocean characters taking the spotlight.

Lisa Monterosso & Carlotta Zanettini
Children's Picture Book
Hardcover | 32 pages | 978-1-80036-069-3
Trim Size: 8.5" H x 10.3" W
List Price: \$18.95
Publisher: Starfish Bay® Publishing

Genre: Realistic Fiction / Social-Emotional Learning
Reading Level: Grade 1-2
Interest Level: Grades PreK-3
Guided Reading Level: J
Lexile® Measure: 470L
Accelerated Reader® Level/Points: 2.4/0.5

Themes:

- Being true to yourself
- Overcoming prejudice and stereotypes
- First day of school anxiety
- Finding genuine friendship
- Self-acceptance and authenticity
- Trying too hard to fit in
- Being different is okay
- Kindness and inclusion
- Parental guidance and wisdom
- Learning to be yourself

Lisa Monterosso grew up in South Australia and has written stories since her childhood, inspired by the picture books her parents and grandparents read to her. She later completed a Diploma of Arts and participated in various writing groups, finding fulfilment through both her writing and through encouraging others to pursue their own creative goals. When she isn't writing, she can be found reading, drinking coffee, or spending time with her husband, family, and friends.

Carlotta Zanettini is a children's book illustrator and creator. Her works are inspired by nature, magic, and the little things that happen in our everyday lives. Carlotta was born and lives in the windy city of Trieste in northeast Italy.



Sharkfin turned his schoolbag around, so it was over his tummy. Mum and Dad waved proudly as he followed the path of pebbles through his garden and all the way to school.



The next day, Sharkfin had an idea. He would make the other fish like him. On his way to school, he bought some tasty seaweed cookies. He used all his money.

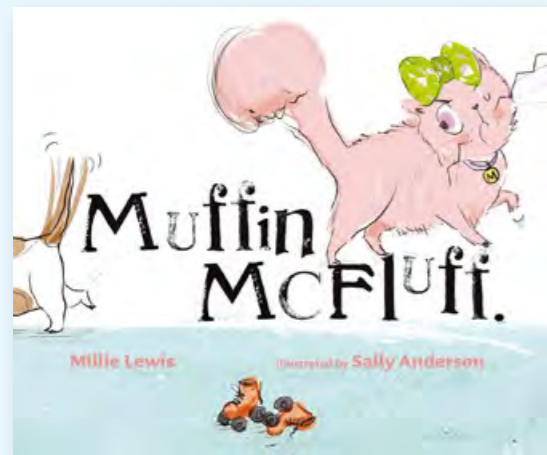
At lunchtime, he tried to share his cookies with the other sea creatures, but they took one look at his jaws and hurried away!



Sharkfin was now happy to go to school and see his new friend.

Soon, he made more friends, and they all played together with their schoolbags on their tummies.

Muffin McFluff



Key Features:

- Follow the fun, villainous Muffin McFluff as she tries to rid herself of Hugly von Hound once and for all
- Potty humor sure to leave kids in stitches
- Fun, expressive, and dynamic illustrations elevate this adventurous and humorous story

Millie Lewis & Sally Anderson
 Children's Picture Book
Hardcover | 32 pages | 978-1-76036-176-1
Trim Size: 8.5" H x 10.3" W
List Price: \$18.95
Publisher: Starfish Bay® Publishing

Genre: Humorous Fiction / Slapstick Comedy / Animal Fiction / Dark Comedy
Reading Level: Grade 2-3
Interest Level: Grades PreK-3
Guided Reading Level: L
Lexile® Measure: 500L
Accelerated Reader® Level/Points: 2.8/0.5

Themes:

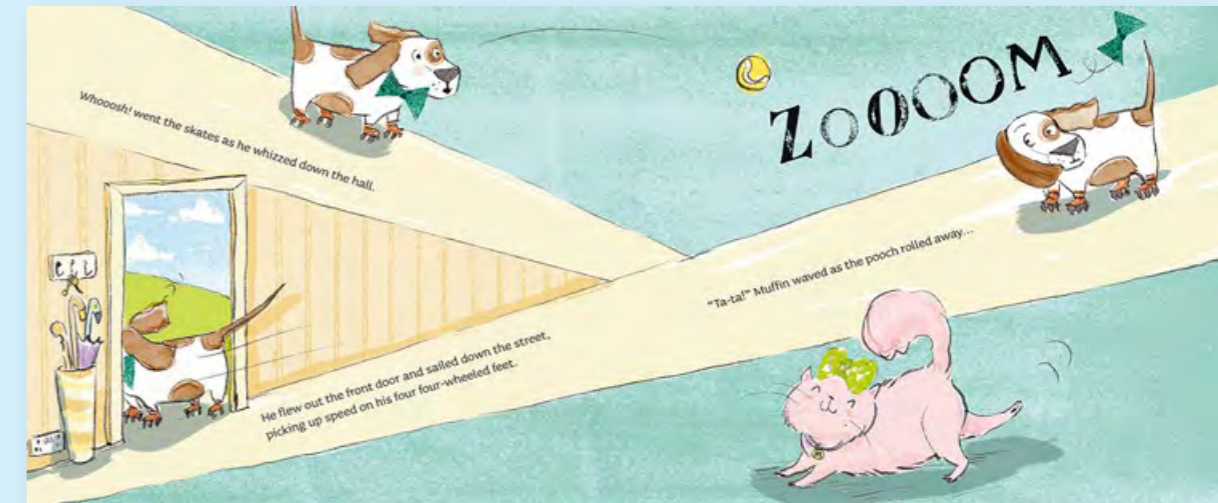
- Sibling Rivalry - Competition and jealousy between pets
- Scheming / Plotting - Planning to get what you want
- Failure - When plans don't work out
- Irony - The victim ends up helping the villain
- Persistence - Not giving up (though applied negatively)
- Unintended Consequences - Actions backfire or have unexpected results
- Obliviousness - Being unaware of danger or ill intent
- Dark Humor - Finding comedy in mean-spirited situations
- Unconditional Love (implied) - Hugly still cares for Muffin despite everything

Villainous kitty Muffin McFluff hates Hugly von Hound, but today she's going to get rid of him for good.

Feline Muffin McFluff may look cute as a button, but beneath her pink fur, her desires are rotten. She wants to dispatch with poor Hugly von Hound... but each time she kicks him out, he just comes right back round!
 Expressive animal antics animate this hilarious tale.

Based in the United Kingdom, **Sally Anderson** is a freelance illustrator specializing in children's book illustration. Her artwork blends traditional mediums like ink, print, and watercolor with digital techniques, and she embodies a passion for drawing from observation. Sally creates charming characters that include diversity and humor, ranging from children's characters to animals in a fun and lively style.

Millie Lewis lives in Sydney, Australia, with her husband and two children. She is a devoted dog lover (especially rescue dogs) and gives the world's best ear scratches and belly rubs. Millie writes for children because children are wonderful. She is a firm believer in the magic of picture books, which leaps off the page and into the world every time a child delights in a good story.



Residents of Nathaniel Pennon's Heart

Nathaniel Pennon's loved ones must work together after they are washed from his heart in a flood.

Nathaniel Pennon's heart contains rooms for the people he loves dearly. But one day, a new room appears, and before the residents of Nathaniel's heart can understand who it is for, a flood of water rushes in, washing them away! Together they must work to stop the flood from devastating Nathaniel's heart. But what could possibly be strong enough to stop something as destructive as this? This is an imaginative and visually captivating story that explores themes such as heartbreak, grief, and healing.

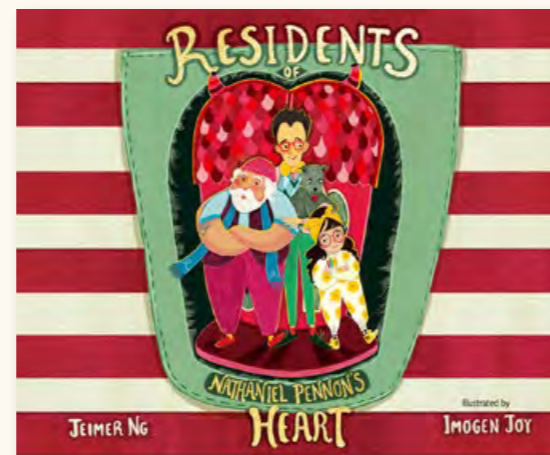
Jeimer Ng & Imogen Joy
Children's Picture Book
Hardcover | 40 pages | 978-1-80036-089-1
Trim Size: 8.5" H x 10.3" W
List Price: \$18.95
Publisher: Starfish Bay® Publishing

Genre: Social-Emotional Learning / Grief/Loss Literature

Reading Level: Grade 3-4
Interest Level: Grades 2-5
Guided Reading Level: O
Lexile® Measure: 650L
Accelerated Reader® Level/Points: 3.8/0.5

Themes:

- Grief and Loss - Processing the death of loved ones
- Hope - Finding light in darkness through future possibilities
- Healing - Recovery is a process, not instant
- Memory - Honoring the past while creating the future
- Community and Support - Healing happens with help from loved ones
- Resilience - Finding strength to continue after loss
- Love Transcends Death - Relationships continue in our hearts
- Adaptation - Things change but can still be meaningful
- The Power of Imagination - Creating hope through envisioning the future
- Integration of Loss - Grief becomes part of us, not something to eliminate
- Intergenerational Wisdom - Learning from others who have experienced loss
- Creative Problem-Solving - Using art and imagination to heal



Key Features:

- A poignant and endearing story that explores themes surrounding grief, healing, and heartbreak.
- An original interpretation of some big emotions readers can experience.
- Wildly inventive and expressive illustrations that capture the emotional themes and originality of this story perfectly.

Jeimer Ng is an author and occupational therapist from Western Australia with a passion for short forms of fiction. He is also a professional daydreamer and certified sentimentalist in love with the world. You can find him hiking through nature, sipping on hot chocolate no matter the weather, and hunting for the best bakeries in town—mainly so he can claim “writer’s block” while eating pastries.

Imogen Joy is an English illustrator living in Sydney, Australia, with her partner, son, and a very fluffy cat. Her mother encouraged her to draw from childhood, nurturing her love of art and her ability to think creatively. Imogen studied fine arts in England and Australia and was delighted to find her voice through illustration, the perfect way to express her whimsical themes and inner magical world with a wider audience.





Key Features:

- Helps children understand and overcome anxiety by giving it a visual form.
- Provides several strategies and ideas for helping children manage anxious and fearful emotions.
- Creative illustrations with a child's drawing style encourage children to express their own emotions through art.

Shelly Higgs first entered storytelling by telling fibs as a child. It's not clear whether her parents believed these, but they were unsurprised by the career choices that followed: actor, theater director, playwright, dramaturg. Shelly has entertained audiences as a giant frog, wrestled words of acclaimed playwrights, led theater shows across Australia, and won numerous awards for photography. Shelly lives in Canberra, Australia, with her four kids, husband, and a menagerie of pets. She has just completed a Graduate Diploma in Psychology and hopes to combine her understanding of people with the power of imagination.

Shelly Higgs & Francesca Costa
 Children's Picture Book
Hardcover | 32 pages | 978-1-76036-218-8
Trim Size: 8.5" H x 10.3" W
List Price: \$18.95
Publisher: Starfish Bay® Publishing

Genre: Contemporary Realistic Fiction / Social-Emotional Learning
Reading Level: Grade 2-4
Interest Level: Grades K-5
Guided Reading Level: M
Lexile® Measure: 570L
Accelerated Reader® Level/Points: 3.2/0.5

Themes:

- Anxiety and fear management
- Emotional regulation
- Courage and bravery
- Self-empowerment
- Understanding emotions
- Growth and resilience

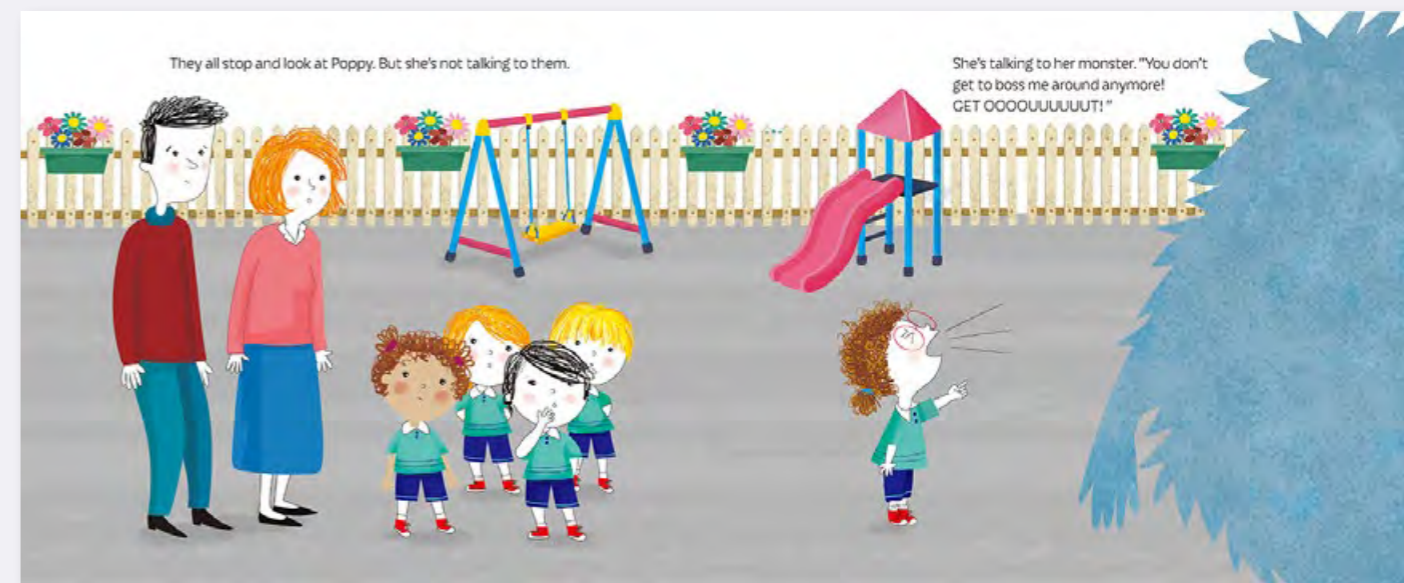
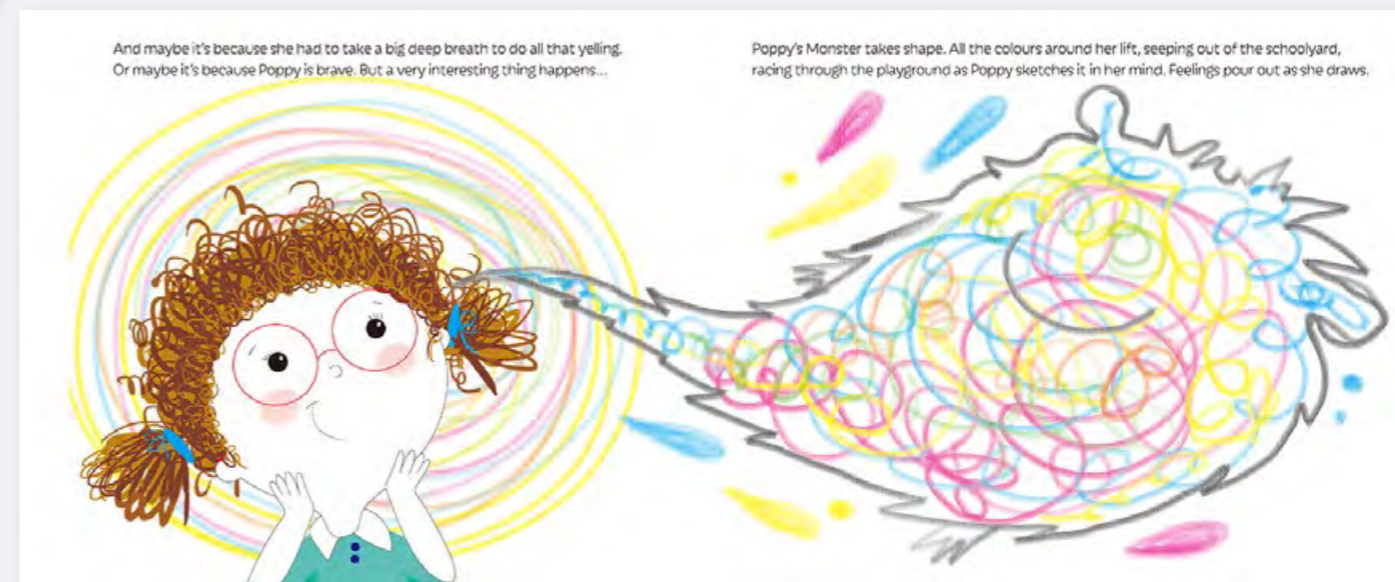
Francesca Costa is from Savona, Italy. After graduating in Chemical Engineering and working in this field for several years, Francesca moved to Milan to pursue her dream of being an illustrator. She earned a degree from IED, the European Institute of Design in 2002, after which, she started working as a freelance illustrator in the publishing and advertising fields.

Poppy's anxiety monster is making her miserable until one day she realizes her monster might just be frightened, too.

Poppy's very brave, but often she gets scared and needs to hold someone's hand. That's when she knows her monster is around.

She has all sorts of ways to help her not feel afraid, but none of them seem to work on her monster. Until one day Poppy realizes... maybe monsters need their hands held, too.

Drawing-style illustrations create a colorful, creative world.



Molly Found a Monster

A formerly happy and active child changes when a monster moves in but overcomes depression with the help of her grandmother.

Molly loves playing in the sunshine, time with friends, and cuddling up by the fire to watch cartoons. She hasn't a worry in her head until the day her monster moves in and changes the way she sees her world. Soon, Molly no longer takes joy in the activities she previously enjoyed, her friends no longer come around, and her monster is her constant companion. But one day, her supportive grandma comes to visit and, over time, coaxes Molly to talk and resume the things she loves until her monster is no longer a constant presence in her life in this lyrical, poetic, and thoughtfully illustrated story about overcoming depression.



Key Features:

- A child-friendly approach to addressing the concept of depression and how to heal from it
- Poetic, lyrical prose makes this a pleasing read-aloud
- Touching and thoughtful illustrations that humanize feelings and mental health, allowing children a deeper understanding of their emotions.

Isabel Hoysted & Judith Loske
Children's Picture Book
Hardcover | 32 pages | 978-1-80036-066-2
Trim Size: 8.5" H x 10.3" W
List Price: \$18.95
Publisher: Starfish Bay® Publishing

Genre: Realistic Fiction / Mental Health / Social-Emotional Learning
Reading Level: Grade 2-3
Interest Level: Grades K-5
Guided Reading Level: L
Lexile® Measure: 560L
Accelerated Reader® Level/Points: 2.7/0.5

Themes:

- Depression and mental health
- Overcoming difficult emotions
- Family support and love
- The power of companionship
- Finding hope in darkness
- Coping strategies and healing
- Understanding that monsters can return
- Community and connection
- Self-care and recovery
- It's okay to ask for help

Judith Loske was born in a small town in Germany. Gaining a degree in illustration in 2010, Judith now works as an illustrator mostly within children's publishing. Judith has always found being an illustrator to be a fascinating job and loves being able to tell stories through images. Judith uses a range of different media in her artwork and enjoys using pencil, collage, watercolour, and Photoshop.



Molly lived in a small house on a big street, with a blue door and a green shed. On Saturdays, she spent time in the garden playing in the sunshine until the sky darkened.

On Wednesdays, Molly had tea with her friends. They ate tiny cakes and cucumber sandwiches. Sometimes they chased the birds and climbed trees, and sometimes they kicked a ball and baked treats.



Each day, the monster seemed to withdraw more and more. It recoiled from the singing and laughing in the house. And finally, the monster waved goodbye with its claws, taking its hat from the hoot and walking out the front door.

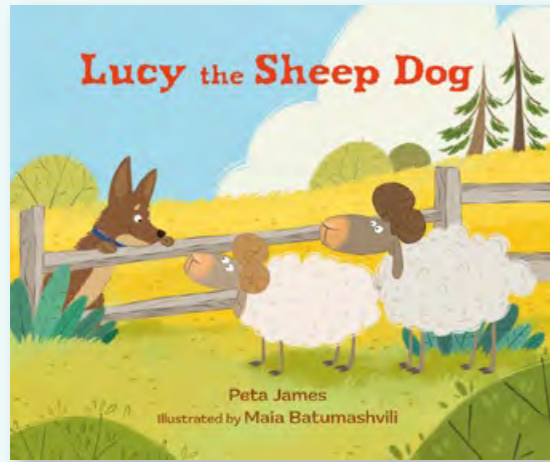
For the first time in months, Molly felt right. The monster no longer stood at her doorstep or slept by her bed. It no longer breathed its foul rotten breath. The monster had left and was no longer a pest.



Molly felt certain next time she would know what to do! She would talk to her friends, so they would understand. She would plant more flowers and dance to more songs. Molly knew she wasn't alone and that she belonged.

And sometimes on a day that is shrouded in grey, her monster stops by for a quick cup of tea. They speak together of days gone past, but the rain soon clears, and the monster's visits never last.

Lucy the Sheep Dog



- Key Features:**
- A story about overcoming obstacles and playing to your strengths!
 - A fun farm romp unfolding with excitement and emotion.
 - Distinctive and charming characters and backgrounds work expertly with the action to carry the reader along through the story.

Peta James & Maia Batumashvili
 Children's Picture Book
 Hardcover | 40 pages | 979-8-90115-047-4
 Trim Size: 8.5" H x 10.3" W
 List Price: \$18.95
 Publisher: Starfish Bay® Publishing

Genre: Animal Fiction / Humorous Fiction
Reading Level: Grade 1-2
Interest Level: Grades PreK-3
Guided Reading Level: J
Lexile® Measure: 420L
Accelerated Reader® Level/Points: 2.2/0.5

- Themes:**
- Finding your unique strengths
 - Perseverance and trying again
 - Self-discovery and identity
 - Being true to yourself
 - Problem-solving
 - Courage in the face of challenges
 - Success comes in unexpected forms

Peta James grew up in rural Australia, and as a child her friends were the family cows, dogs, cats, and chickens. Now that she's (sort of) an adult, she writes stories about animals and their adventures. Peta can't go for a walk without stopping to say hello to every dog and cat she meets—because animals are people too! Lucy the Farm Dog is Peta's first children's book.

Maia Batumashvili was born in Tbilisi, Georgia, in 1978. From a young age, Maia has loved to draw and is inspired by the children's books and cartoons she grew up with. After graduating from two art institutes, Maia worked on an animation project before finally realizing her dream of illustrating children's books. When Maia is not creating imaginative worlds, she enjoys spending time with her three beautiful children and her dog, Tayo.

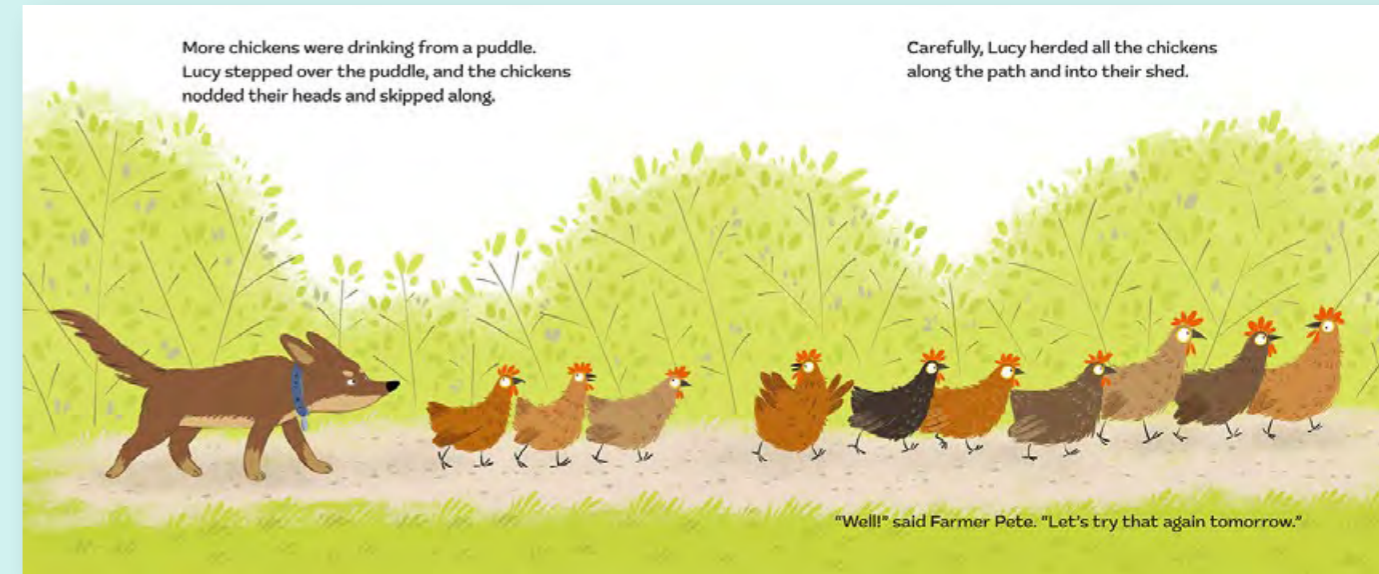
Lucy the sheep dog isn't very good at herding sheep. How can she help Farmer Pete?

Farmer Pete needs a sheep dog, and Lucy is the perfect dog for the job... or so he thinks. But when the sheep butt and stamp and run, Lucy realizes she's not much of a sheep dog after all. How will Lucy ever help Farmer Pete if she can't herd sheep? If only all these chickens would stop clucking and getting underfoot... Stylized illustrations create texture and movement, working to weave a vivid world for readers to explore.



The next day, Lucy and Farmer Pete drove to the shearing yards, past the chicken shed.

Chickens flap, flap, flapped everywhere. "Blasted chooks!" grumbled Farmer Pete.



More chickens were drinking from a puddle. Lucy stepped over the puddle, and the chickens nodded their heads and skipped along.

Carefully, Lucy herded all the chickens along the path and into their shed.

"Well!" said Farmer Pete. "Let's try that again tomorrow."

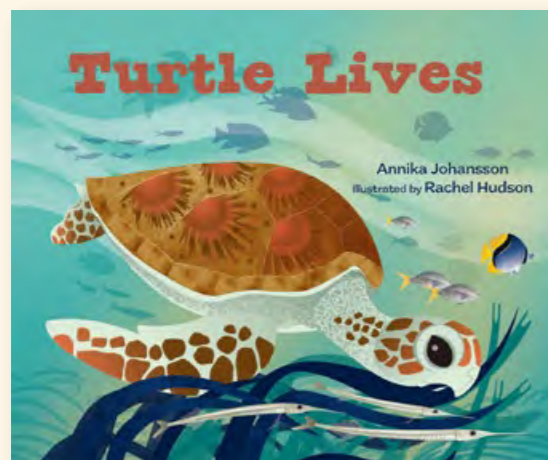
One sheep walked up to Lucy and butted her head.



Lucy hid behind Farmer Pete's legs. "We'll try again tomorrow," sighed Farmer Pete.



Turtle Lives



Key Features:

- This delicate story explores the life cycle of a sea turtle, with an educational message about the environment, global warming, and conservation.
- Empowers kids to take action on climate change with easy-to-understand tips and ideas that can be incorporated into their everyday lives.
- Beautiful underwater artwork vividly brings the sea turtle's journey and the wonder of our oceans to life.

Annika Johansson is an Australian author and freelance writer living in the rainforests on Bundjalung Country on the Northern Rivers of NSW. She is a self-confessed people watcher and believes there is no better secret power than our own imaginations. She has weekly conversations with kookaburras, pythons, wallabies, green tree frogs, turtles, and echidnas, hoping they will one day come inside and join her for afternoon tea.

Rachel Hudson creates artwork that brings people closer to nature. She is the author and illustrator of *100 Endangered Species* (Button Books, 2021) and illustrator of *How to Know a Crow* (Greystone Kids, 2024). Rachel lives in Hampshire, England. Her research for *Turtle Lives* included visiting Friday the green turtle in the National Marine Aquarium.

A touching exploration of a sea turtle's life cycle and the impact of global warming on their future.

Turtle Lives is a poignant story about the life of a sea turtle, from playful beginnings to nesting on sandy shores. Through captivating illustrations and lyrical text, this story gently introduces the life cycle of the sea turtle and how global warming will affect its future. With fascinating facts and tips on how we can help protect our planet and its fragile sea life, and gorgeously vivid illustrations, this book encourages readers to take small steps to make a big impact. *Turtle Lives* aims at encouraging awareness of the fragility of our planet and Earth's changing climate, and it empowers children to make meaningful change.

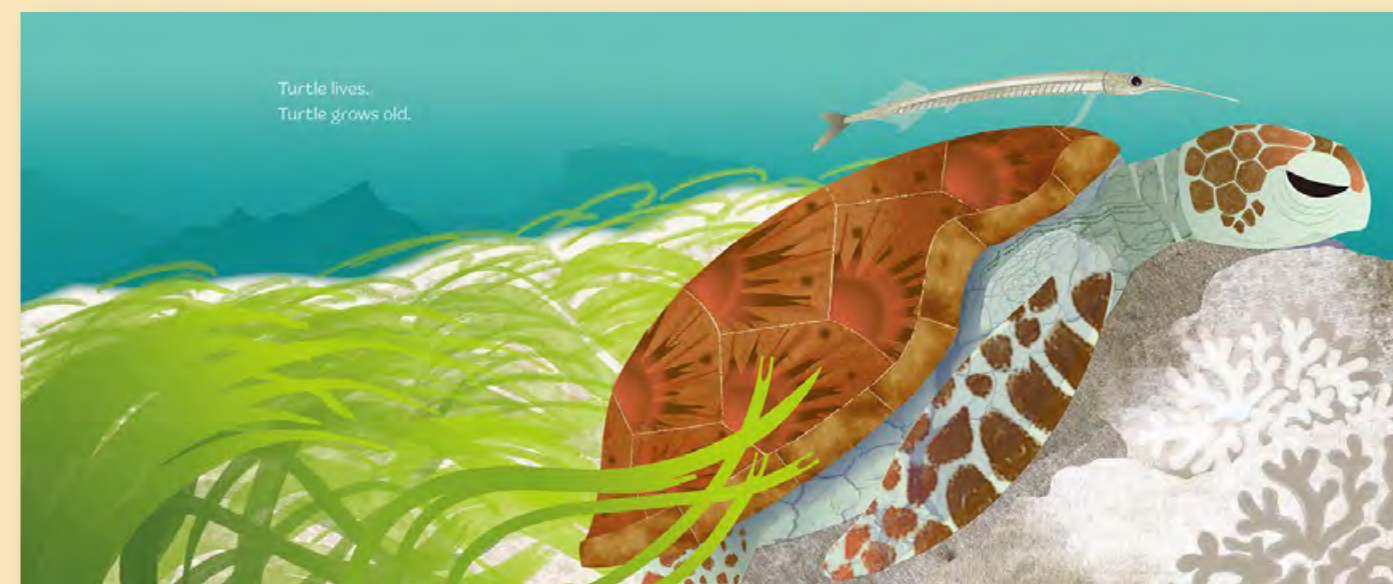
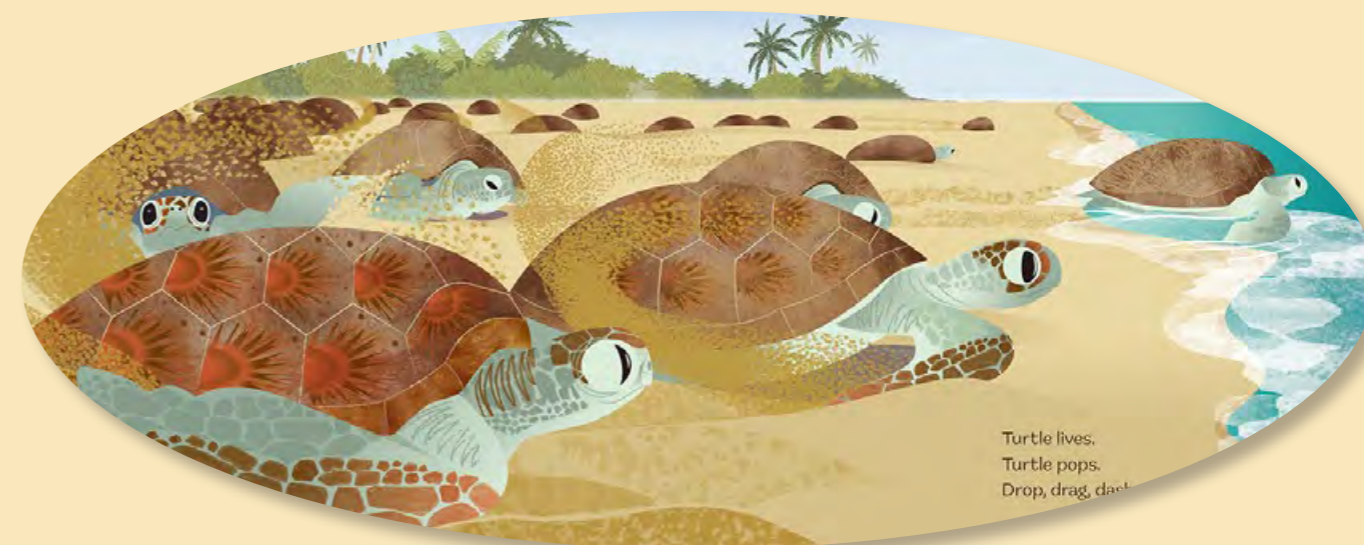
Annika Johansson & Rachel Hudson
Children's Picture Book
Hardcover | 32 pages | 978-1-80036-093-8
Trim Size: 8.5" H x 10.3" W
List Price: \$18.95
Publisher: Starfish Bay® Publishing

Genre: Environmental Nonfiction / Science Education / Conservation Fiction-Nonfiction Hybrid

Reading Level: Grade 2-3
Interest Level: Grades PreK-3
Guided Reading Level: N
Lexile® Measure: 600L
Accelerated Reader® Level/Points: 3.5/0.5

Themes:

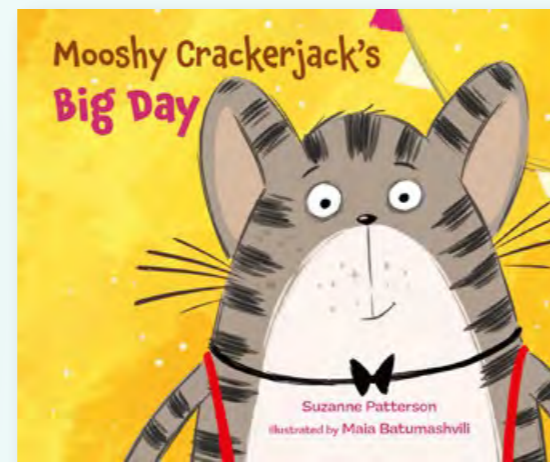
- Climate Change and Global Warming - Human impact on Earth's temperature
- Conservation and Environmental Stewardship - Taking action to protect wildlife
- Life Cycles - Sea turtle development and reproduction
- Extinction - Species vulnerability and survival
- Temperature-Dependent Sex Determination - Unique biological phenomenon
- Environmental Responsibility - Individual and collective action
- Hope and Empowerment - Children as agents of change



Mooshy Crackerjack's Big Day

Mooshy Crackerjack's birthday goes hilariously wrong as he tries – and fails – to stay out of trouble.

Mooshy Crackerjack is determined to stay out of trouble and have the best birthday ever – but everyone seems to have forgotten! Although his family are busy preparing something special, it isn't for him, and with each step Mooshy takes, mayhem follows. From an icing disaster to a soggy balloon mishap, nothing goes right. Has anyone actually remembered his birthday? Or will there be a surprise in store? Join Mooshy in this delightfully illustrated and hilarious adventure about family, friendships, and the joy of surprises.



Key Features:

- A funny and appealing story about a mishap-laden birthday that children will love.
- Touches on themes of patience and the importance of friends and family.
- Hilarious illustrations that are full of character, bringing out the joy and fun of this wonderful story.

Suzanne Patterson & Maia Batumashvili
Children's Picture Book
Hardcover | 40 pages | 978-1-76036-269-0
Trim Size: 8.5" H x 10.3" W
List Price: \$18.95
Publisher: Starfish Bay® Publishing

Genre: Fantasy / Humor / Animal Story
Reading Level: Grade 1-2
Interest Level: Grades PreK-3
Guided Reading Level: K
Lexile® Measure: 520L
Accelerated Reader® Level/Points: 2.6/0.5

Themes:

- Birthday celebrations
- Family love and surprises
- Good intentions vs. consequences
- Learning responsibility
- Mishaps and accidents
- Patience and understanding
- Working together as a family
- Anticipation and excitement
- Making amends for mistakes
- Things working out in the end

Suzanne Patterson lives in Bathurst, Australia, with her husband and treasures time with her two grown children. She is an avid koala lover and hopes to one day cuddle one. Suzanne loves to doodle maps, make giant bubbles, and a frothy coffee. She enjoys creating stories from a GINORMOUS imagination pot that make children giggle, laugh, and believe in the magic of books.

Maia Batumashvili was born in Tbilisi, Georgia, in 1978. From a young age, Maia has loved to draw and is inspired by the children's books and cartoons she grew up with. After graduating from two art institutes, Maia worked on an animation project before finally realizing her dream of illustrating children's books. When Maia is not creating imaginative worlds, she enjoys spending time with her three beautiful children and her dog, Tayo.



A Dinosaur Ate My Homework



Key Features:

- A hilarious and entertaining story about seeking challenge and being brave.
- A delightful and surprising story that features a unique twist on the phrase, "A dog ate my homework."
- Bright, bold illustrations that are full of character, perfectly complimenting the originality and charm of this story.

When his homework is snatched away by a dinosaur, a young boy dares to retrieve it!

Did you know that dinosaurs absolutely love to eat homework? It's true! All that paper is made from trees, so it's a tasty snack for plant eaters! But when a young boy's math assignment is suddenly snatched away, he decides to give chase – after all, he doesn't want to disappoint his teacher. But dinosaurs can be very stubborn, and who knows, maybe there is another reason for wanting to take it... This is a hilarious and exciting story about facing up to challenges and the importance of empathy, featuring wildly expressive and entertaining illustrations.



There I was, sitting at the park, quietly doing some additions under a tree – not at all distracted by the flying frisbees or sausage sizzle or one-legged scooter race – when my paper got ripped right out of my lap.

A monstrous creature towered over me. It had its big stubby teeth clamped tight around my homework. No doubt about it, I was face to face with a dinosaur.



Miraculously, I caught up! I didn't waste any time. I grabbed my homework. But that dino was determined. It was a full out tug-of-war, except it was rather unevenly matched, my opponent being a dinosaur and all.

Still, I wouldn't give up. I heaved, I pulled...

Joanne Vernon has wanted to write books ever since she was five years old. To this day, she enjoys writing, making art, and exploring nature. Joanne lives in Auckland, New Zealand, with her daughters. Together, they dream of travelling the world.

Joanne Vernon & Roser Cussó
Children's Picture Book
Hardcover | 32 pages | 978-1-76036-250-8
Trim Size: 8.5" H x 10.3" W
List Price: \$18.95
Publisher: Starfish Bay® Publishing

Genre: Humorous Fiction / Fantasy
Reading Level: Grade 2-3
Interest Level: Grades K-4
Guided Reading Level: M
Lexile® Measure: 560L
Accelerated Reader® Level/Points: 2.8/0.5

Themes:

- Classic homework excuse with twist
- Imagination and storytelling
- Responsibility and accountability
- Unexpected acts of compassion
- Humor in school situations
- Perspective shift and empathy
- Problem-solving and determination
- Parent-child relationships (mother dinosaur)
- Comedic misunderstanding
- Finding heroism in kindness



Roser Cussó is a picture book illustrator from Barcelona. She creates colorful illustrations using analogue and digital techniques. Her unique universe is created by intuition, investigation, and storytelling through evocative images. She takes each project as a new opportunity to experiment and play with new artistic expressions.

When the Zoo Followed Me Home



A boy brings home a zoo full of animals and discovers there can be room for one more in his family.

After a trip to the zoo, a young boy discovers the animals have followed him home—and are hiding around the house! There's a lion by the couch, a bat on the ceiling, and even an elephant in the garage! With all these animals around, there isn't much room, but with a baby sibling due soon, this little boy will soon learn that there can be space for everyone. This is a delightfully illustrated and whimsical story that explores imagination, discovery, and growing as a family.

Key Features:

- *The Zoo That Followed Me Home* subtly explores emotional anxieties about changes within a family, offering reassurance and warmth.
- A playful and imaginative story that features engaging rhyme and rhythm.
- Children will love searching for hidden animals in the wonderfully vibrant and humorous illustrations.

Claire E. Peters & Chiara Franceschetti
Children's Picture Book
Hardcover | 40 pages | 978-1-80036-099-0
Trim Size: 8.5" H x 10.3" W
List Price: \$18.95
Publisher: Starfish Bay® Publishing

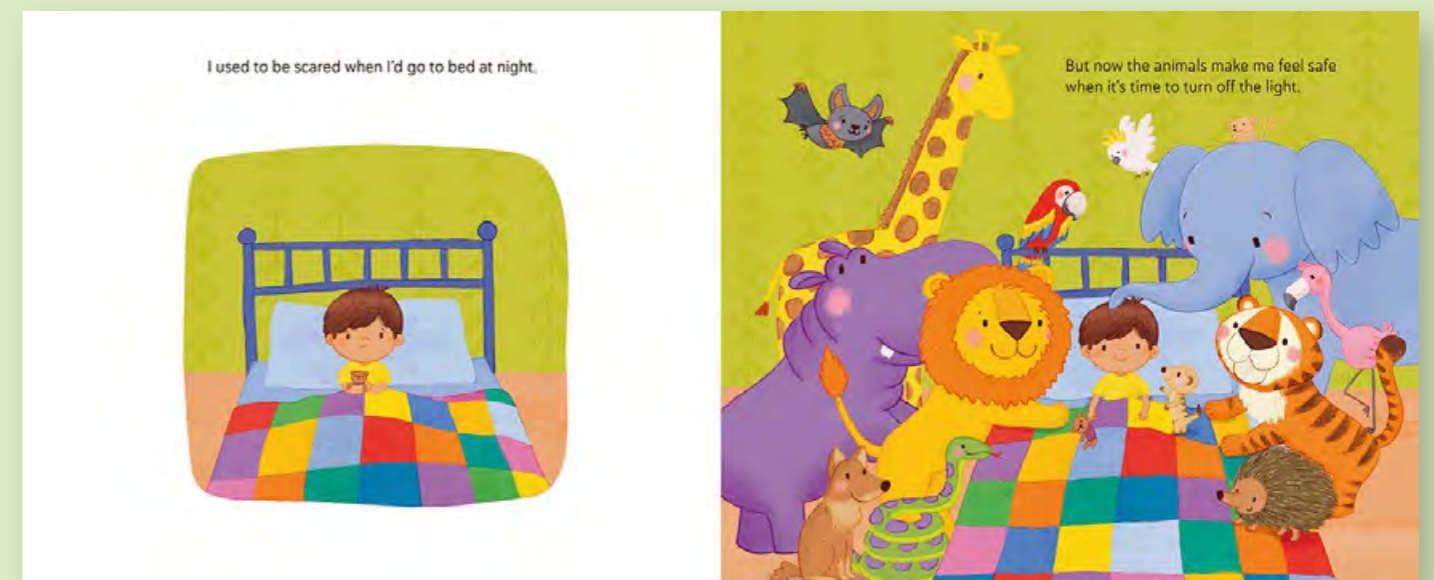
Genre: Fantasy / Family Story
Reading Level: Grade K-1
Interest Level: Grades PreK-3
Guided Reading Level: I
Lexile® Measure: 440L
Accelerated Reader® Level/Points: 2.9/0.5

Themes:

- New sibling arrival
- Processing family changes
- Making room for others
- Imagination and creativity
- Overcoming anxiety about change
- Family growth and acceptance
- Finding comfort in imagination
- Space and belonging
- Emotional adjustment
- Love and family

Writing has been a companion to **Claire E. Peters** as long as she can remember. Understanding the lasting impact that a childhood book can have on a reader, she's been inspired to create tales that evoke a sense of magic and emotion in both children and adults alike. Claire lives in Australia with her husband and two young children. Together, they keep a watchful eye out for any sneaky zoo animals that may be hiding around their home.

Chiara Franceschetti has always loved drawing. Originally a graduate of architecture, it was after having two children that she began her creative career. Inspired by the mountainous surroundings of her childhood, fairy tales and travel, Chiara works digitally, often combining watercolors to form detailed and joyfully colored artwork. Chiara lives in South Tyrol, Italy, with her husband and two children.

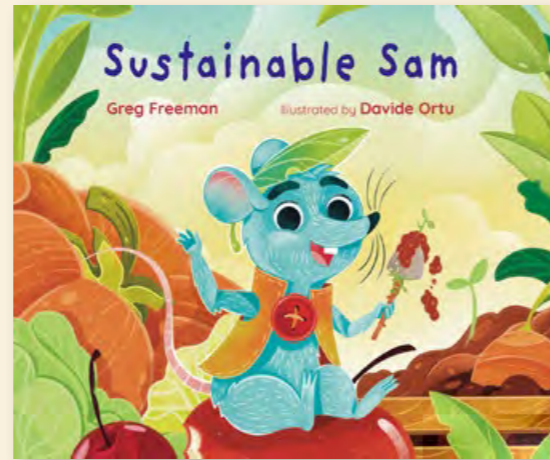


Sustainable Sam

A rat and his community save themselves from hunger through teamwork and growing their own food.

When the humans start composting their food waste, Sam and his rat community go hungry. But Sam has learned to read, and he quickly comes up with a plan for them to become self-sufficient and grow their own food. So, they find seeds, plant a garden, and learn to compost, in this story about gardening and growing vegetables, sustainability, and the importance of communities working together as a team to achieve a common goal. The beautiful artwork will inspire children by perfectly capturing the significance and fun of sustainability.

Greg Freeman is an environmental consultant who has a passion for writing children's books on environmental issues. He loves developing animal characters who show humans how to better manage our environment. From fish to owls and rats, he has managed to capture young imaginations with animals who improve our environment with direct action. He lives in Port Macquarie, Australia.



Key Features:

- Teaches children about sustainability, such as growing your own food, composting, and being self-sufficient.
- Shows the importance of reading and communities working together as a team to achieve a common goal.
- Detailed and colorful illustrations that demonstrate the need for sustainability and the fun that can be had in achieving this.

Davide Ortu is an Italian artist now living in Spain. He studied Art in Cagliari Arts Lyceum Foiso Fois, Sardinia. Open melancholic spaces, atmospheres between dreams and reality, and fantastic elements are the main features of his work, where time stops to show the biggest emotions in the smallest people. A mixture of elements that can reach the fantasy of children and the heart of adults.

Themes:

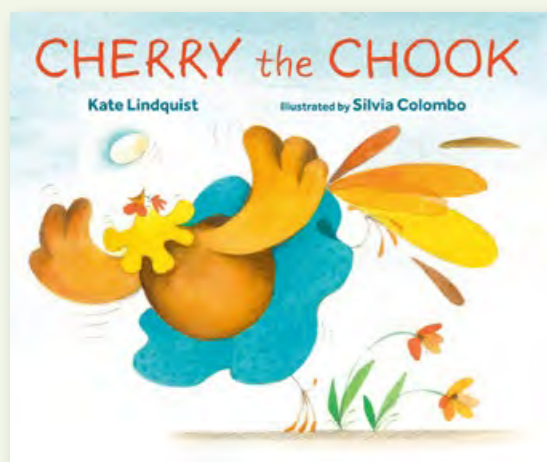
- Sustainability and self-sufficiency
- Problem-solving through education and literacy
- Composting and environmental awareness
- Community cooperation and teamwork
- Adapting to change
- Food security and gardening
- Value of reading and learning
- Resourcefulness and innovation
- Sharing knowledge with others
- Environmental responsibility

Greg Freeman & Davide Ortu
Children's Picture Book
Hardcover | 32 pages | 978-1-76036-192-1
Trim Size: 8.5" H x 10.3" W
List Price: \$18.95
Publisher: Starfish Bay® Publishing

Genre: Educational Fiction / Environmental Story
Reading Level: Grade 2-3
Interest Level: Grades K-4
Guided Reading Level: L
Lexile® Measure: 510L
Accelerated Reader® Level/Points: 2.7/0.5



Cherry the Chook



Key Features:

- Upbeat lyrical verse and onomatopoeia make this an appealing read-aloud.
- Laugh-out-loud humor will keep kids wanting to re-read the story.
- Colorful and energetic watercolor illustrations bring this humorous story to life.

A chicken searches everywhere to find her lost egg and sees it everywhere, with hilarious consequences.

A chicken named Cherry wakes up after a nap to find her egg has disappeared from her nest, so she sets off to find it with increasingly hilarious consequences. Cherry thinks she sees her egg but finds a hatching crocodile egg, a lost white balloon, a ball, a vanilla ice cream, and more, until she gives up and finds her egg hidden right where she left it. This story, written in lyrical verse and onomatopoeia, features beautifully dynamic watercolor illustrations that will make readers laugh out loud.

Kate Lindquist & Silvia Colombo
Children's Picture Book
Hardcover | 40 pages | 978-1-76036-208-9
Trim Size: 8.5" H x 10.3" W
List Price: \$18.95
Publisher: Starfish Bay® Publishing

Genre: Humorous Fiction / Animal Story
Reading Level: Grade K-2
Interest Level: Grades PreK-3
Guided Reading Level: J
Lexile® Measure: 490L
Accelerated Reader® Level/Points: 2.4/0.5

Themes:

- Determination and perseverance
- Mistaken identity and confusion
- Comedy of errors
- Problem-solving and persistence
- The journey home
- Mother's love and care
- Not giving up despite setbacks
- Things are not always as they seem
- Humor in everyday mishaps
- Happy endings and surprises

Silvia Colombo was born near Milan, Italy. A passionate artist, Silvia originally studied Literature and Philosophy at Università Statale, before working as a film critic, journalist, and lecturer. Silvia was recently inspired to draw again, attending Giovanni Manna and Linda Wolfsgruber's classes at the International School of Illustration, Sàrmede and the workshop of Mauro Evangelista at Mimaster. She currently lives and works in Milan, Italy.



Flowers from Felix

Through simple acts of kindness, Felix brightens the day of everyone he meets.

Felix is excited. He has a beautiful bunch of flowers to give Nanna for her birthday. On the way to Nanna's house, Felix discovers his friend Olivia is feeling sad, so Felix gives her a flower.

As he continues to Nanna's house, Felix meets Sophie, Grace, and Ben, who all need cheering up. One by one, kind Felix gives his flowers away. Will he still have a gift special enough to give his Nanna?

A gentle and touching celebration of kindness and compassion, Felix's Flowers explores a range of emotions and the importance of caring for those in need.

Philippa Brown & Elisa Moriconi
Children's Picture Book
Hardcover | 40 pages | 978-1-76036-229-4
Trim Size: 8.5" H x 10.3" W
List Price: \$18.95
Publisher: Starfish Bay® Publishing

Genre: Realistic Fiction / Social-Emotional Learning
Reading Level: Grade 1-2
Interest Level: Grades PreK-3
Guided Reading Level: K
Lexile® Measure: 500L
Accelerated Reader® Level/Points: 2.5/0.5

- Themes:**
- Kindness and generosity
 - Empathy and helping others
 - Selflessness and sharing
 - Understanding emotions in others
 - Problem-solving through compassion
 - Family relationships and traditions
 - Birthday celebrations
 - Acts of kindness
 - Putting others before yourself
 - Finding joy in giving

Philippa Brown lives in Sydney, Australia. Together with her husband, she has raised three children, and over this time has fallen deeply in love with children's literature. Philippa has worked for twenty years as a general practitioner. As a doctor, she especially loved helping children, but her love of children's stories eventually won, and she retired early from general practice to write.

Elisa Moriconi is an Italian illustrator and concept artist living in London, UK, who started to work on children's books and magazines in 2007. She loves soft, bright, and warm colors and takes inspiration for new palettes from quiet places like gardens, parks, cute shops, and metal tea tins (which she collects!). Her illustrations are often realized in digital painting, but she also loves to work with gouache and watercolors.



Key Features:

- A touching story that celebrates kindness, caring, and acceptance.
- A gentle and engaging exploration of common feeling and emotions.
- An uplifting story exploring themes of empathy and compassion.



Farther along, Felix saw a little girl stamping on the ground. "Sophie's feeling cross today," said her mum. "Very cross!" said Sophie. "She wants to be carried, but I have a sore arm," said her mum. "Sophie needs to walk today." "A flower will cheer you up," said Felix. "Everybody loves flowers," said Sophie's mum, and Sophie smiled.

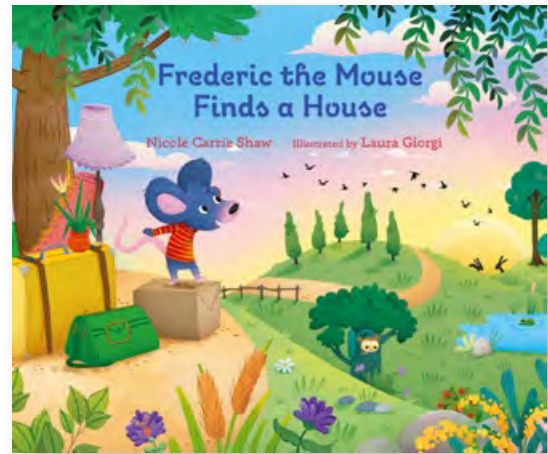


Felix paused outside Nanna's gate. He walked slowly up Nanna's path and rang the doorbell.



"Perfect for my new vase!" "How very kind," said Nanna. "Everybody loves flowers," laughed Felix.

Frederic the Mouse Finds a House



Key Features:

- Fast-paced and amusing rhyming verse that encourages phonological awareness.
- A fun story that teaches children the importance of trying new things and valuing what you possess.
- Lively, richly detailed, and colorful illustrations that bring out the humour and uniqueness of this wonderful story.

Nicole Carrie Shaw grew up an avid reader and remembers well the books that inspired her life-long love of literature. Using imagination to create entertaining stories for young readers, Nicole hopes she will encourage children to read more, learn new things, and embrace their creativity. She lives in Perth, Australia, working as a medical research scientist. In her spare time, Nicole enjoys spending time with friends and family, exploring the beautiful coastline of Western Australia, and dreaming up new stories.

Laura Giorgi lives near a large and famous car factory in Turin, Italy. Her childhood was filled with colorful drawings, cartoons on TV, and playing in the yard with friends—things she still enjoys today. While her technique is more refined and her styles are different, Laura is still having the same fun. Her style is amusing, colorful, and playful—much-loved by children!

Tired of his house, Frederic the mouse sets out to find another but learns there is no place like home.

Bored by living in a hole in the floor, Frederic the mouse decides that it is time to move out and find a new house. There are many options to choose from – Pigeon’s sunny rooftop apartment, Frog’s stylish lily pad, a quiet cave... but could any really be called “home”? A fun and engaging story about self-discovery and recognizing the value in what you have, it will delight readers with its witty rhyming verse, lively and vibrant illustrations, and charming story.

Nicole Carrie Shaw & Laura Giorgi
Children’s Picture Book
Hardcover | 32 pages | 978-1-76036-231-7
Trim Size: 8.5” H x 10.3” W
List Price: \$18.95
Publisher: Starfish Bay® Publishing

Genre: Adventure Fiction / Animal Fantasy
Reading Level: Grade 1-2
Interest Level: Grades PreK-3
Guided Reading Level: J
Lexile® Measure: 450L
Accelerated Reader® Level/Points: 2.8/0.5

Themes:

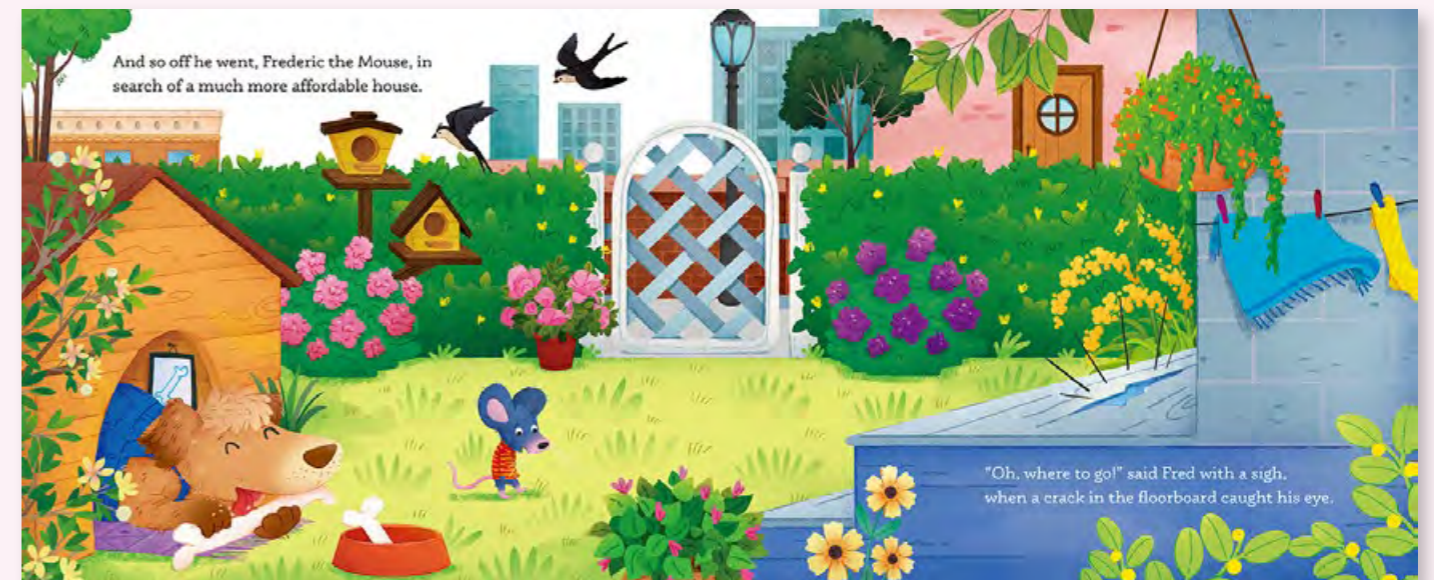
- Finding where you belong
- Home and contentment
- The grass isn’t always greener
- Appreciating what you have
- Journey and self-discovery



He’d lived his whole life in a hole in the floor. Now he wanted to try something new, something more.



So many relatives crowded the place, it was hard for a mouse to find enough space!



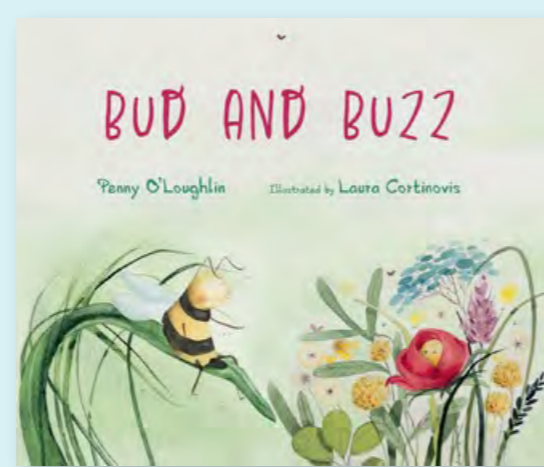
“Oh, where to go!” said Fred with a sigh, when a crack in the floorboard caught his eye.

Bud and Buzz

Bud is just a small blossom that no bug wants to dance with. "Bee" patient, Bud—your beau will come.

Bud is just a tiny flower in Grandpa's garden that few people see and no insects want to dance with. That is, until after a downpour, when Bud receives a visit from a bee named Buzz, who has noticed his nectar now he is beginning to bloom.

In this magical tale that makes music out of everyday acts of nature, characters work seamlessly with the serene surroundings to pull readers into the wonder of Buzz and Bud's garden world.



Key Features:

- A fun approach to the "bees" of the birds and the bees—get to grips with nature and pollination through narrative.
- Prose turns science into story, art, and serenity through beautiful dancing metaphors and a serene sense of positivity.
- Colorful and gentle watercolor illustrations capture both beauty and quirkiness, bringing the charming garden characters and setting into full blossom.

Penny O'Loughlin & Laura Cortinovis
Children's Picture Book
Hardcover | 32 pages | 978-1-76036-235-5
Trim Size: 8.5" H x 10.3" W
List Price: \$18.95
Publisher: Starfish Bay® Publishing

Genre: Nature Fiction / Friendship Story
Reading Level: Grade 2-3
Interest Level: Grades PreK-4
Guided Reading Level: L
Lexile® Measure: 560L
Accelerated Reader® Level/Points: 2.7/0.5

Themes:

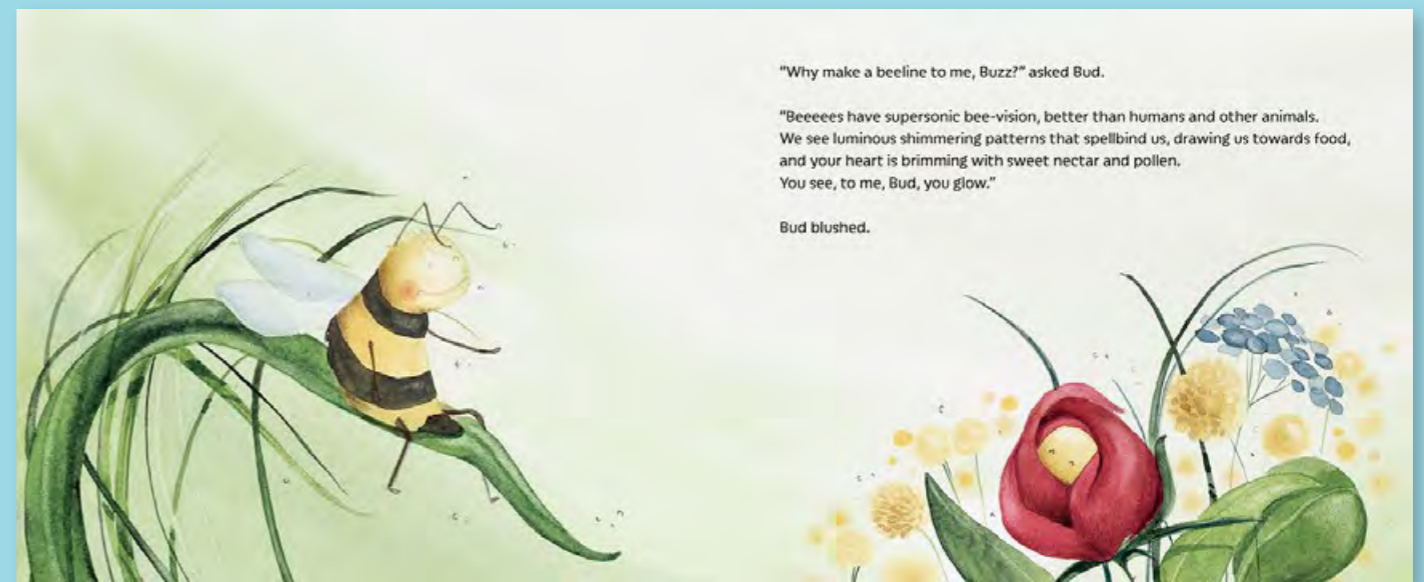
- Loneliness and finding friendship
- Growth and transformation
- Perseverance through difficult times
- Interconnectedness in nature
- Pollination and symbiotic relationships
- Patience and waiting
- Self-worth and being seen
- Resilience during storms
- Purpose and belonging
- Hope after hardship

Laura Cortinovis is from Bergamo, Italy. She creates worlds and characters with a watercolor technique that represents the easiest way for her to make dreams visible. After taking several courses at the International School of Illustration of Sarnede, Laura has worked as a writer and illustrator, publishing several books. She currently works as a freelancer for Italian publishing houses and brands.



Amidst the sea of colours in Grandpa's garden lived Bud, a very little rose that no one ever saw.

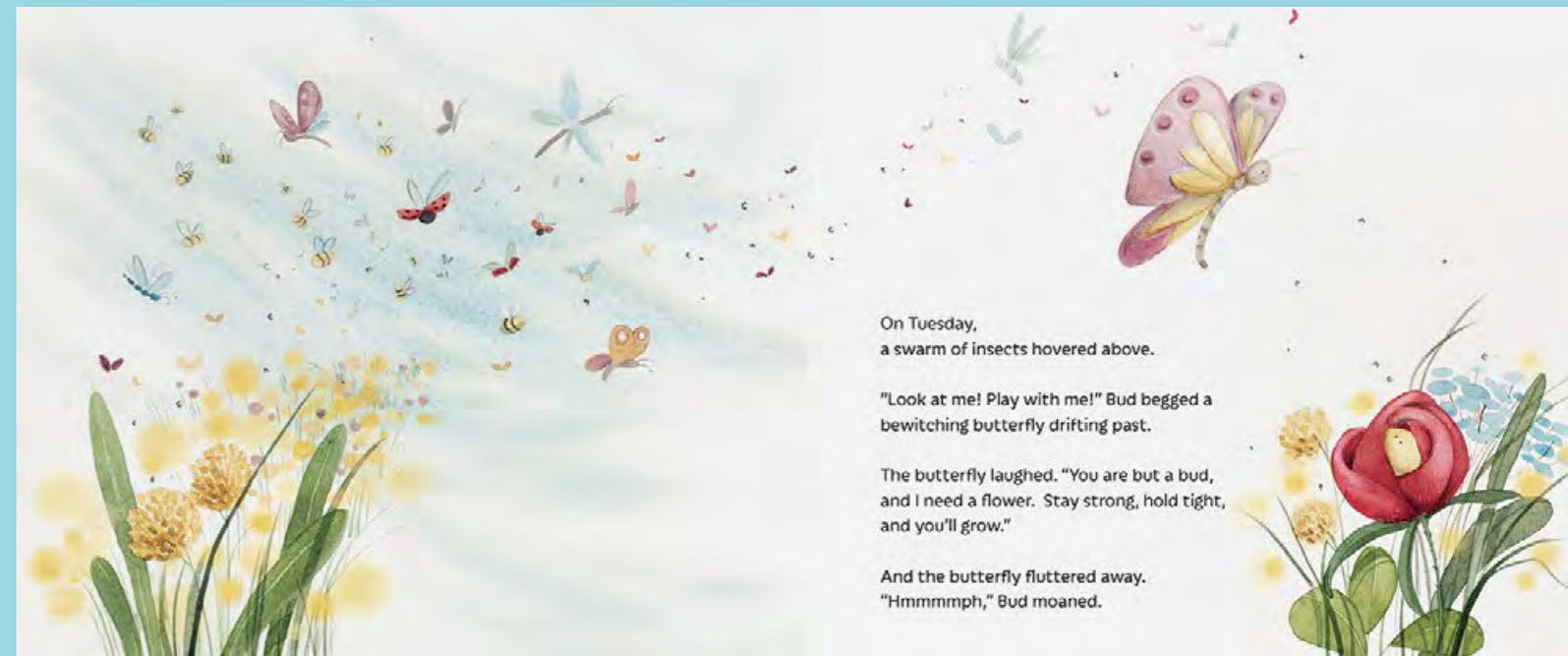
Interesting creatures of all sorts visited: butterflies and ladybugs, bees and birds. But Bud sat alone in the shadows.



"Why make a beeline to me, Buzz?" asked Bud.

"Beeees have supersonic bee-vision, better than humans and other animals. We see luminous shimmering patterns that spellbind us, drawing us towards food, and your heart is brimming with sweet nectar and pollen. You see, to me, Bud, you glow."

Bud blushed.



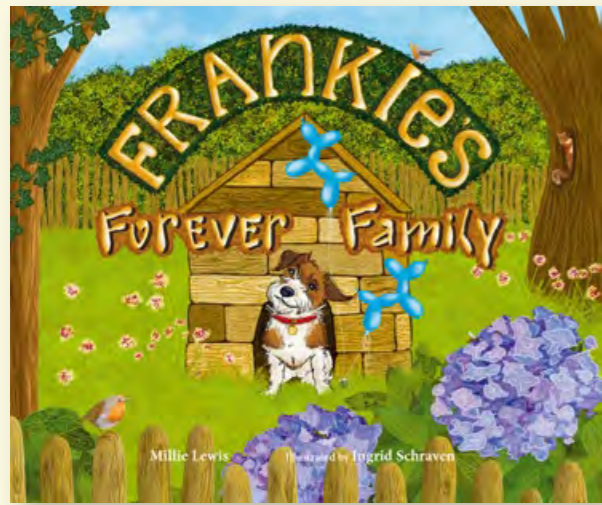
On Tuesday, a swarm of insects hovered above.

"Look at me! Play with me!" Bud begged a bewitching butterfly drifting past.

The butterfly laughed. "You are but a bud, and I need a flower. Stay strong, hold tight, and you'll grow."

And the butterfly fluttered away. "Hmmmph," Bud moaned.

Frankie's Forever Family



Key Features:

- A heartwarming tale that explores the connections we have with others and the need for belonging.
- Perfect for younger readers to learn about adopting animals and the bonds we share with them.
- Striking, detailed artwork that compliments the fun and poignancy of the story.

Frankie searches for a forever family until he finally finds someone who speaks his language—Dog.

This is the heartwarming tale of a sprightly rescue dog on a quest to find a forever home. The local park hosts a Forever Friends Day, and Frankie tries to impress potential owners with his tricks and charm—but they fail to understand his joyful barks. Just as it seems that Frankie will be going home alone, a young girl named Jessie appears, and she speaks his language—Dog. This is a moving and joyous story that explores the connections we share with others and the need for belonging. This book features striking, detailed artwork that captures the joy and warmth of the story.

Millie Lewis lives in Sydney, Australia, with her husband and two children. She is a devoted dog lover (especially rescue dogs) and gives the world's best ear scratches and belly rubs. Millie writes for children because children are wonderful. She is a firm believer in the magic of picture books, which leaps off the page and into the world every time a child delights in a good story.

Born in a small town in The Netherlands, **Ingrid Schraven** is a self-taught illustrator, former travel agent, and mother of three active boys. In her spare time, she enjoys the company of her dachshund who is recovering from paralysis. With lots of love and affection and using extensive therapy, her dog drives her ambition and inspiration to draw compelling illustrations for children, regularly having animal characters take the lead role.

Millie Lewis & Ingrid Schraven
Children's Picture Book
Hardcover | 40 pages | 978-1-76036-246-1
Trim Size: 8.5" H x 10.3" W
List Price: \$18.95
Publisher: Starfish Bay® Publishing

Genre: Realistic Fiction / Animal Story
Reading Level: Grade K-2
Interest Level: Grades PreK-3
Guided Reading Level: K
Lexile® Measure: 520L
Accelerated Reader® Level/Points: 2.5/0.5

Themes:

- Pet adoption and rescue animals
- Finding belonging and acceptance
- Perseverance through rejection and disappointment
- The importance of communication and understanding
- Being yourself and finding the right match
- Hope and resilience in difficult circumstances
- The bond between children and pets
- Humorous misunderstandings and perspective
- Second chances and new beginnings
- Love and family connections



Wattle (the Rhino) at Large

A rhino longs to return to Taronga Zoo, and she has just the plan!

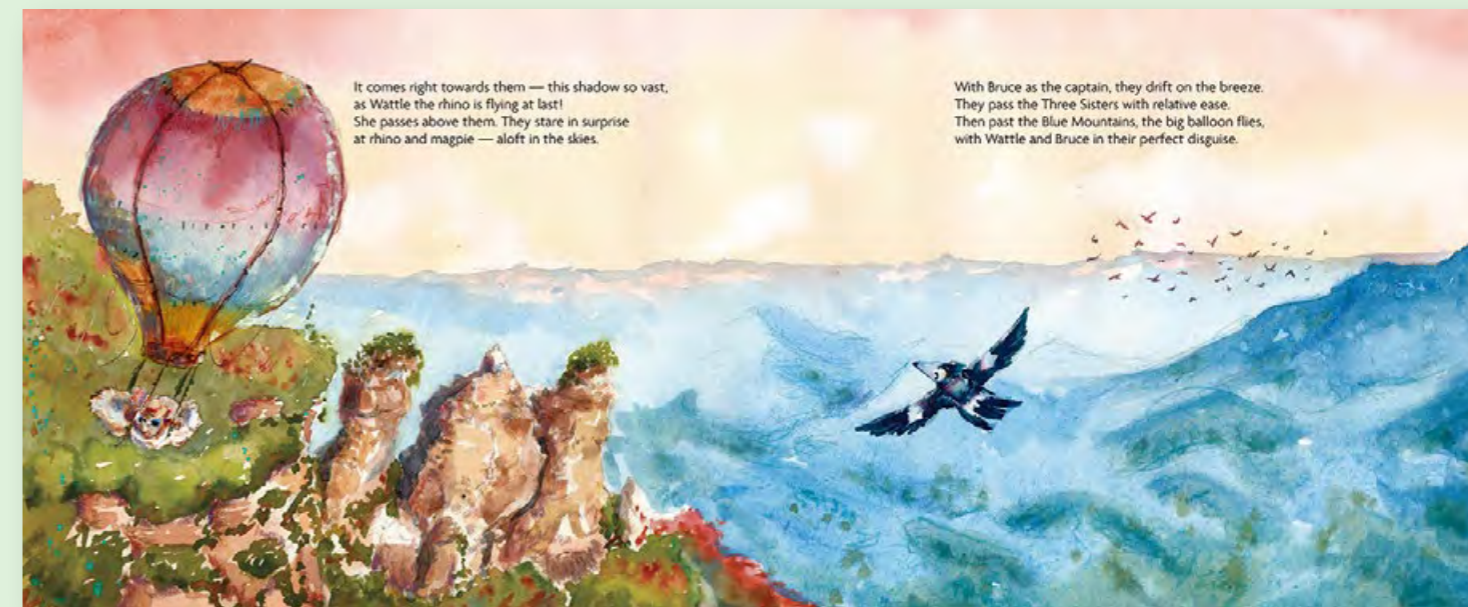
Dreaming of seeing her friends at Sydney's Taronga Zoo once more, Wattle the rhino plans a daring escape from the quiet, lonely nights at Western Plains Zoo. With help from her faithful friend, Bruce the magpie, she discovers an ingenious way to break out – and avoid the posse of zookeepers searching for her. Will the pair make it to the bright lights of Sydney? And will it feel like “home”? A humorous and fun adventure that highlights Australia's role in helping save these wonderful animals from extinction. With delightful, engaging artwork that captures the excitement of this story.

Deborah Wild & Felipe Lancha
Children's Picture Book
Hardcover | 40 pages | 978-1-76036-277-5
Trim Size: 8.5" H x 10.3" W
List Price: \$18.95
Publisher: Starfish Bay® Publishing

Genre: Adventure Fiction / Animal Story
Reading Level: Grade 2-3
Interest Level: Grades K-5
Guided Reading Level: L
Lexile® Measure: 560L
Accelerated Reader® Level/Points: 3.0/0.5

Themes:

- Home and belonging
- Adventure and discovery
- Friendship and loyalty
- Appreciating what you have
- Missing friends and nostalgia
- Problem-solving and creativity
- Journey and self-discovery
- Conservation and endangered animals
- Australian geography and culture
- Finding where you truly belong



Key Features:

- A humorous story that will inspire readers to learn more about the world's endangered rhinos and the important role that Australia plays in saving this lovable species from extinction.
- A funny and exciting adventure that will thrill children, while the informative back matter will delight with some fun facts!
- Bold, expressive illustrations that capture the humor and excitement of this story.

Deborah Wild was raised on the North Shore of Sydney, Australia, in a house full of pets and generations. At university, Deb attempted everything from astronomy to zoology, before focusing on children's literature. Having raised three children of her own, Deb now lives in the hills of Canberra, Australia. When not at her desk, Deb loves spending time outdoors. She's passionate about wildlife conservation and dreams of a world where animals are free from threat and harm.

Felipe Lancha is from São Paulo, Brazil. He has always been passionate about the arts and found that his path in life flowed naturally into children's illustration. Using exclusively traditional methods, Felipe's work is inspired by music, cinema, literature, family, video games, coffee, and much more.

Jack's Books

Jack loves books—just not reading them. Can he find a way to connect with his book-loving family?

Jack's family loves books, and so does Jack—just not for reading. Jack's book buildings are driving his family to frustration, until one day Jack makes a discovery: there are pirates in books! As Jack dives into new worlds, he realizes books might just hold even more...

Immersive and imaginative illustrations catapult us into Jack's world and into the worlds he discovers in his own books.

Helen Vivienne Fletcher & Denise Damanti
Children's Picture Book
Hardcover | 32 pages | 978-1-80036-074-7
Trim Size: 8.5" H x 10.3" W
List Price: \$18.95
Publisher: Starfish Bay® Publishing

Genre: Realistic Fiction / Family Story
Reading Level: Grade 1-2
Interest Level: Grades PreK-3
Guided Reading Level: J
Lexile® Measure: 450L
Accelerated Reader® Level/Points: 2.8/0.5

Themes:
• Discovery of reading and literacy
• Finding your own path to learning

Helen Vivienne Fletcher is an author, storyteller, and award-winning playwright from New Zealand. She has written an impressive collection of books for everyone from preschoolers to adult readers. When not writing, Helen teaches creative writing classes, and her alter-ego, Fairy Helen, runs story times at The Children's Bookshop. Helen lives in Wellington, with her assistance dog, Bindi, a playful Labrador who loves soft toys, cuddles, and can fit three tennis balls in her mouth at once.



Key Features:

- An empathetic story about a child discovering his love for reading.
- This story embraces important themes of acceptance, connection, and working to one's strengths.
- Expressive illustrations explore immersion and expression through use of style and space to effortlessly communicate with young readers (or not-quite-readers!)

- Creative play and building
- Family relationships and support
- Books as gateways to imagination
- Learning styles and preferences
- Perseverance and open-mindedness
- The joy of reading
- Problem-solving through exploration
- Connecting interests to literacy

Denise Damanti was born near Florence, Italy. Deciding to pursue a career in visual arts, Denise completed a Visual Design course at Nemo Academy of Visual Arts in 2017. It was here that she was introduced to the world of illustration. Denise creates fantastic and, sometimes "halfway", worlds. She believes that it is through an altered world that there is space for an imagination that represents life at its fullest.



The Best Swimmer in the Whole World



Key Features:

- A fun beach day story following a strong central character.
- Learn the lessons of perseverance in this narrative about exploring new experiences.
- Bright summer artwork captures the excitement and adventure of a day at the beach.

Nell Smith & Patrizia Manfroi
Children's Picture Book
Hardcover | 40 pages | 978-1-80036-081-5
Trim Size: 8.5" H x 10.3" W
List Price: \$18.95
Publisher: Starfish Bay® Publishing

Genre: Realistic Fiction / Character Building
Reading Level: Grade K-2
Interest Level: Grades PreK-3
Guided Reading Level: J
Lexile® Measure: 480L
Accelerated Reader® Level/Points: 2.4/0.5

Themes:

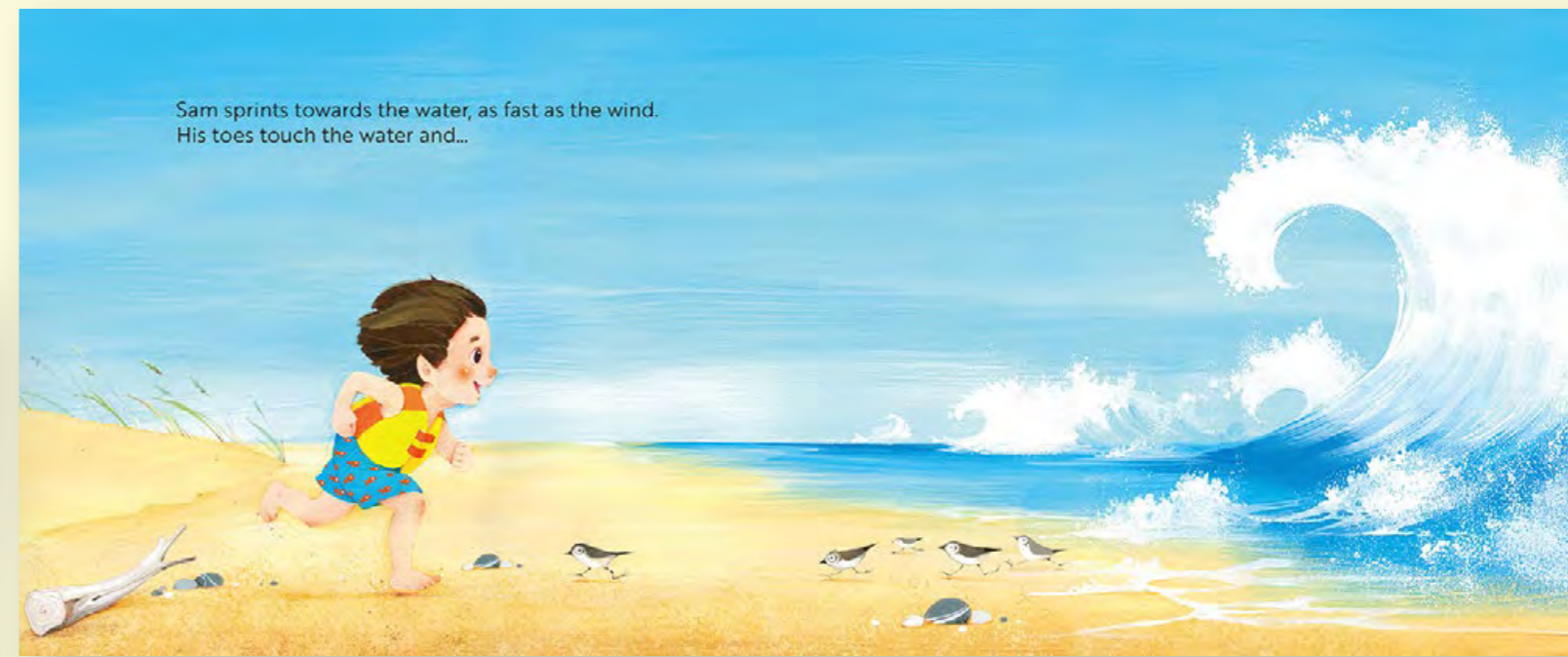
- Perseverance and determination
- Overcoming fear and challenges
- Building courage step by step
- Goal-setting and achievement
- Problem-solving and creativity
- Self-motivation and inner strength
- Learning from setbacks
- Trying again after failure
- Beach and water safety
- Finding your own way

Sam is going to be the best swimmer in the whole world—that is, until he dips his toe in.

Sam's excited for his day at the beach. Mum sets up the towel and sits with baby Luna while Archie sets off into the surf. "I'm going to be the best swimmer in the world!" Sam declares. But the sea is too cold, so he turns to making sandcastles. When his constructions collapse right out of the bucket, fetching water to stick the sand together might remind him why he came in the first place... Bright, summery artwork paints a perfect picture of a beach day adventure.

Nell Smith lives in Melbourne, Australia, with her partner and three children. She earned a degree in Fine Arts at Queensland University of Technology before working for the Literacy and Young Peoples Service at the State Library of Queensland, where her love for children's picture books grew. Nell completed the Writing Picture Books course with the Australian Writers' Centre in 2020. She works part time licensing musicals for schools and community groups around Australia and New Zealand.

Patrizia Manfroi is from Milan, Italy. An award-winning artist, she is fond of the atmosphere found in fairy tales and has been inspired by these fantastic and poetic kingdoms. Patrizia enjoys expressing the distinctive features that belong only to childhood, such as beauty, charm, irony, and nonsense. Patrizia enjoys using both traditional and digital techniques in her work.



Crouching to collect water, Sam is careful not to touch the icy waves.

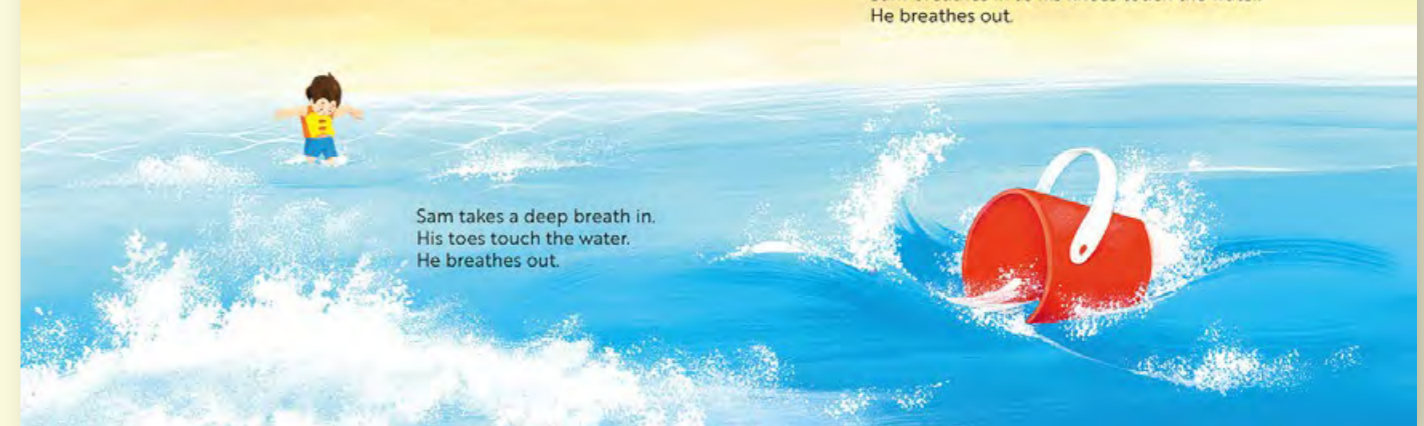


The waves lap the shore. The wind blows the bucket to the waves on the shore.

"Uh-oh!" says Mum.



Sam watches his bucket drift farther with the current. He looks back at the collapsed castle of sand. He looks down at his vest and checks the clips are secure.



Sam breathes in as his shins touch the water. He breathes out.

Sam breathes in as his knees touch the water. He breathes out.

Sam takes a deep breath in. His toes touch the water. He breathes out.

Bees are Blue

Jack learns about blue-banded bees and helps his Nanna create the perfect garden for them.

When Jack discovers that Australia's bees are not just yellow and black but sometimes blue, he becomes determined to find them. With help from his Nanna, Jack creates the perfect garden for blue-banded bees by planting native flowers and building a bee home. Learning all he can about these fascinating insects, Jack also discovers that seeing them is going to take some patience, too! This is a fun, educational story about the importance of bees and the ways in which we can provide for them, and it features delightfully rich illustrations.

Terri Owbridge is an Australian writer for children and adults. Terri's passion for storytelling led her to a career in journalism and communications. Her first children's picture book, *Sticking Out*, was published in 2022. She hails from a long line of talented creators, who taught her the magic of the arts from a young age. Terri currently resides in Western Australia with her husband, daughter, and perfectly mischievous tabby cat.



Key Features:

- A warm and fun story that promotes awareness of bees and their unique characteristics.
- This delightful story explores how we can help to create the perfect environment for pollinators.
- The rich, colorful illustrations demonstrate ways to encourage pollinators into gardens in a fun and engaging way.

Sara Fandrey is an Italian/German children's book illustrator living in Portugal. Influenced by her love for all things vintage, she prefers soft, desaturated color palettes. Sara combines traditional and digital techniques, and you can find warm lightning, cute (often magical) characters, and a dash of humor in her work. Away from drawing, she is running after (or reading to) her two children.

Themes:

- Environmental conservation and awareness
- Native bees and pollination
- Patience and delayed gratification
- Intergenerational relationships and bonding
- Learning through discovery
- Creating wildlife habitats
- Australian native flora and fauna
- Hope and optimism
- Working together toward goals
- Finding magic in nature

Terri Owbridge & Sara Fandrey
Children's Picture Book
Hardcover | 40 pages | 978-1-80036-086-0
Trim Size: 8.5" H x 10.3" W
List Price: \$18.95
Publisher: Starfish Bay® Publishing

Genre: Educational Fiction / Nature
Reading Level: Grade 1-3
Interest Level: Grades PreK-4
Guided Reading Level: K
Lexile® Measure: 530L
Accelerated Reader® Level/Points: 2.5/0.5

"Nanna, if the bees are blue, is their honey blue, too?"
"They don't make honey, Jack, in fact, not many bees do."



Bees came and went, but none were blue. "Nanna," said Jack, "what should we do?"



"We need to be patient for little blue bees, but in the meantime, what else can you see?"



And just as Jack hoped he might see some more, a knock-knock, "Hello," came from the door.



"Oh, crumbs," said Jack. "I don't want to go!"
"If I see one," said Nanna, "I'll let you know."

Jack had brought ...

... a map of Nanna's garden to help the bees find their way, some treats for their home, to make them want to stay,



and a few other goodies in an old biscuit tin – all with a special touch of blue to help the bees fit in.

Toffee Puddle



Key Features:

- Energetic, fast-paced rhyme that will delight all readers.
- A hilarious and chaotic character that is sure to bring a lot of laughter.
- Bold, funny illustrations heighten the story's hilarity and will engage readers.

A sticky toffee causes chaos around the house while creating a new outfit.

Toffee Puddle, a loveable but yucky character, gets into all kinds of mischief at home. While the family is out, he rolls around the house with his sticky toffee body getting stuck on all kinds of objects. From a tube of toothpaste to a kitty litter tray, nothing is too gross as he creates a fabulous new outfit! But what will the family think when they return? This is a hilarious and energetic story in fast-paced rhyme, with simple and appealing illustrations.

Hannah Hellyer & Miles Hellyer
Children's Picture Book
Hardcover | 32 pages | 978-1-80036-090-7
Trim Size: 8.3" H x 8.3" W
List Price: \$18.95
Publisher: Starfish Bay® Publishing

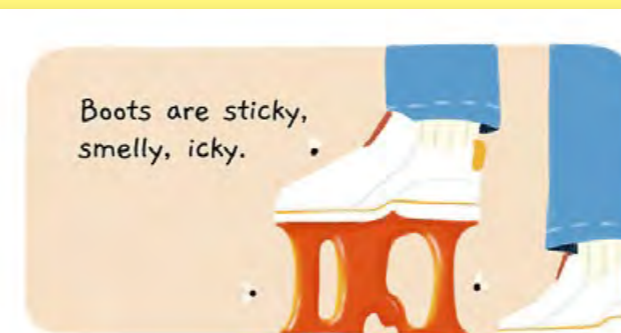
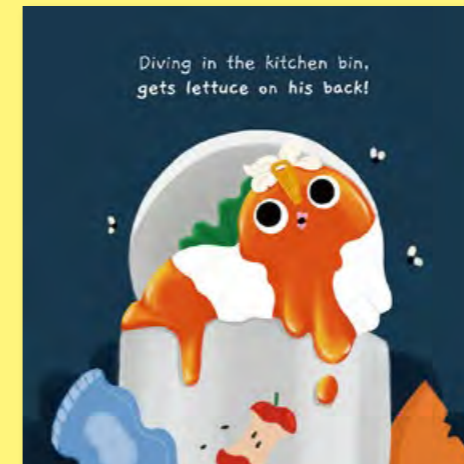
Genre: Adventure fiction
Reading Level: Grade 3
Interest Level: Grades PreK–3
Guided Reading Level: I
Lexile® Measure: 650L
Accelerated Reader® Level/Points: 3.0/0.5

Themes:

- Overcoming fear and anxiety
- Building courage through gradual exposure
- Friendship and peer support
- Self-discovery and personal growth
- Perseverance and resilience

Hannah Hellyer is a mother of two young children and the co-host, producer, and founder of the award-winning parenting podcast - Baby Brain Podcast, where she interviews parenting specialists for a dedicated weekly audience of thousands. Hannah is also the founder, writer, and producer of the Nana Hannah Bedtime Stories podcast, a best children's podcast finalist at the 2024 Australian Podcast Awards. The episodes contain soothing stories written and narrated by Hannah, with music and sounds to help children sleep.

Miles Hellyer is a father of two young children. He is the Founder and Creative Director of Chalk Company, a design and animation studio based in Sydney, Australia. Over the past ten years, Miles has been designing, illustrating, and animating a range of creative projects for clients such as the Art Gallery of NSW, NSW Department of Education, and the Museum of Contemporary Art.



Toffee puddle wants a cuddle, feeling pretty glum.

Jumps out from his hiding place and...



An Aussie Christmas Rescue

A quirky group of Australian animals team up to fix Santa's broken-down sleigh and save Christmas!

When Santa's sleigh breaks down in Australia halfway through his seasonal journey, an array of quirky, talking animals must work together to help him deliver presents to their town. Through teamwork, the animals save Christmas by fixing Santa's sleigh—and Rudolph's nose—so that they can successfully deliver the presents. With themes of community, support, and empathy, this book contains a uniquely Australian twist on the holiday theme, while the modern and beautifully designed artwork celebrates the joy and fun of Christmas.

Adam Martin & Giulia Quagli
Children's Picture Book
Hardcover | 32 pages | 978-1-80036-092-1
Trim Size: 8.5" H x 10.3" W
List Price: \$18.95
Publisher: Starfish Bay® Publishing

Genre: Fantasy / Holiday Story
Reading Level: Grade 2-3
Interest Level: Grades K-5
Guided Reading Level: L
Lexile® Measure: 550L
Accelerated Reader® Level/Points: 2.9/0.5

- Themes:**
- Helping others in need
 - Teamwork and cooperation
 - Australian animals and culture
 - Christmas spirit and generosity
 - Problem-solving together
 - Community and belonging
 - Diversity of talents
 - Adventure and excitement
 - Humor and fun
 - Cultural diversity in holiday stories



- Key Features:**
- A delightful rhyming Christmas story that celebrates teamwork, creative problem-solving, and the spirit of the season.
 - Children will love the fun and adventure had by this group of quirky Australian animals.
 - Beautifully designed, modern, and stylized artwork emphasizes the joy of Christmas and the uniqueness of Australian animals.

Adam Martin is an army veteran and full-time dad from New South Wales, Australia. He lives on a small farm, with a chicken who thinks it's a duck, ducks who think they're dogs, dogs who think they're kids, and two kids who think they're adults. He enjoys reading to his kids, making people laugh, and the idea of sleep.

Giulia Quagli is an illustrator who lives and works in the Tuscan hills. She loves to draw and spend time with animals.



A Big Fish is Waiting for Me!



Key Features:

- A touching story that explores the special relationship between child and grandparent and shows the benefits of perseverance.
- Beautifully written with lyrical language, including alliteration and assonance.
- Exquisitely detailed and colorful illustrations that bring to life the atmosphere and excitement of a seaside adventure for young children.

A child goes fishing with her funny grandfather but, unlike others, she has trouble catching a fish.

When Evie is with Grandpa all she wants is to catch a fish. Grandpa knows that fishing isn't easy and answers Evie's curious questions with silly seaside stories. Evie doesn't give up, and just as raindrops drip down, she pulls in something even better than a fish. This beautifully written story with lyrical language celebrates the special relationship between grandparents and children.

Christine Kodomichalos & Alessandra
Children's Picture Book
Hardcover | 32 pages | 978-1-80036-061-7
Trim Size: 8.5" H x 10.3" W
List Price: \$18.95
Publisher: Starfish Bay® Publishing

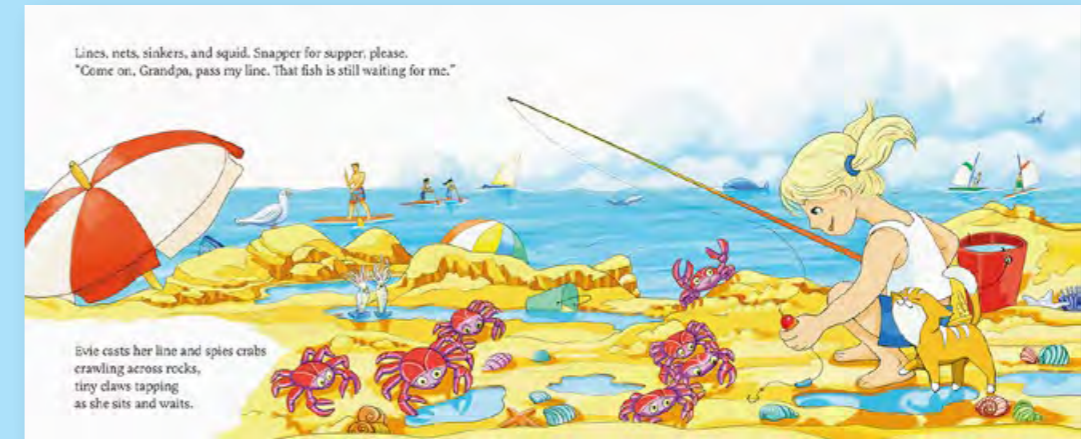
Genre: Realistic Fiction / Family Story
Reading Level: Grade 1-2
Interest Level: Grades PreK-3
Guided Reading Level: J
Lexile® Measure: 480L
Accelerated Reader® Level/Points: 2.4/0.5

Themes:

- Patience and persistence
- Grandparent-grandchild relationships
- Imagination and playful storytelling
- Fishing as a shared activity
- Disappointment and resilience
- Unexpected discoveries
- Compassion for sea creatures
- Joy in nature and outdoor activities

Christine Kodomichalos was raised in a family of ten with two dogs, three birds, and a turtle. Growing up in the southern suburbs of Sydney, she spent most of her time climbing trees and paddling down rivers with her siblings. Today she lives by the beach in Sydney, Australia, and still loves outdoor adventures. In fact, many of her stories are inspired by the fun she has had exploring nature with her family. When Christine is not writing, she is working in primary schools as a diverse learning teacher. Christine has a Masters in Inclusive Education and is passionate about creating opportunities for all children to shine.

Born in Santa Margherita Ligure, Italy, **Alessandra Micheletti** now lives in Bergamo. Alessandra graduated from the Academy of Fine Arts, where her ability to engrave, draw, and paint earned her a scholarship throughout her studies. Alessandra is very active in all fields of illustration—from novels to advertising campaigns—and also holds courses in etching, drawing, and watercolor in high schools, clubs, and libraries in Italy.



Huxley's Home

Huxley's shell is too small, but his mission to find a new home is hampered by an ocean of litter.

Huxley the hermit crab spends his days feasting on the delicious algae surrounding his ocean reef. When Huxley realizes that his shell has become too tight, he sets off on an adventure to find a new home. Along the way, Huxley finds several strange objects, but they don't come from the ocean and would make a bad shell! Will Huxley ever find his home? Featuring colorful and humorous illustrations that bring this underwater adventure to life.

Kylie Tull is a South Australian educator and author who developed an obsession with poetry and writing from an early age. Believing that every child is an author with countless stories to tell, Kylie has a passion for inspiring young readers to fall in love with creating stories of their own. She believes that children are made readers on their parent's laps, and are made writers through connection, conversation, and storytelling.



Key Features:

- The bouncing rhyme with a repeating refrain carries a story that children will love to read.
- This book teaches children all about hermit crabs and how human litter poses a huge problem for them when they switch shells.
- Vivid and expressive illustrations bring these ocean characters and settings to vibrant life.
- Expressive ocean characters make Huxley's dilemma's funny and exciting.

Alice Mastropaolo completed her academic studies at the Palermo Comics School. After graduating, Alice obtained a Master's degree in Editorial Illustration, Toy Design and Game Book at OPPI-Mimaster, Milan. She also gained a Master's degree in Creative Direction at IED Milan, specializing as an Art Director in the advertising sector. Alice currently works as an illustrator and author for Italian and international publishing houses.

Themes:

- Ocean pollution and marine litter
- Environmental conservation
- Habitat and natural homes
- Perseverance and problem-solving
- Consequences of human actions on wildlife
- Marine life education
- Finding where you belong
- Trial and error learning
- Responsibility for our environment
- Growth and change

Kylie Tull & Alice Mastropaolo
Children's Picture Book
Hardcover | 40 pages | 978-1-76036-212-6
Trim Size: 8.5" H x 10.3" W
List Price: \$18.95
Publisher: Starfish Bay® Publishing

Genre: Environmental Fiction / Animal Story
Reading Level: Grade 1-2
Interest Level: Grades PreK-4
Guided Reading Level: K
Lexile® Measure: 530L
Accelerated Reader® Level/Points: 2.6/0.5



It's Time for Slime!

Squid and his friends can't find books about slimy characters like them, so Squid writes a book about slimy superheroes.

Squid searches the library for books with characters like him. He reads about furry creatures, feathery creatures, and farmyard creatures, but he can't find any books with slimy heroes. His friends Slug, Newt, and Hagfish have the same problem, so Squid decides to write a slimy superhero story, one in which his friends can see themselves. In this tale about representation, equality, and diversity, children will learn about some of Earth's fascinating lesser-known creatures, which are boldly depicted in the engaging and humorous illustrations.

Liz Bennett & Nicole Curti
Children's Picture Book
Hardcover | 40 pages | 978-1-80036-065-5
Trim Size: 10.2" H x 9.4" W
List Price: \$16.95
Publisher: Starfish Bay® Publishing

Genre: Educational Fiction / Science / Animal Story
Reading Level: Grade 2-3
Interest Level: Grades K-5
Guided Reading Level: M
Lexile® Measure: 570L
Accelerated Reader® Level/Points: 2.8/0.5

Themes:

- Representation and diversity in literature
- Celebrating differences and uniqueness
- Challenging negative stereotypes
- Self-advocacy and speaking up
- Appreciating nature's adaptations
- Science education and marine biology
- Friendship and community support
- Creating positive change
- Pride in who you are
- The power of storytelling

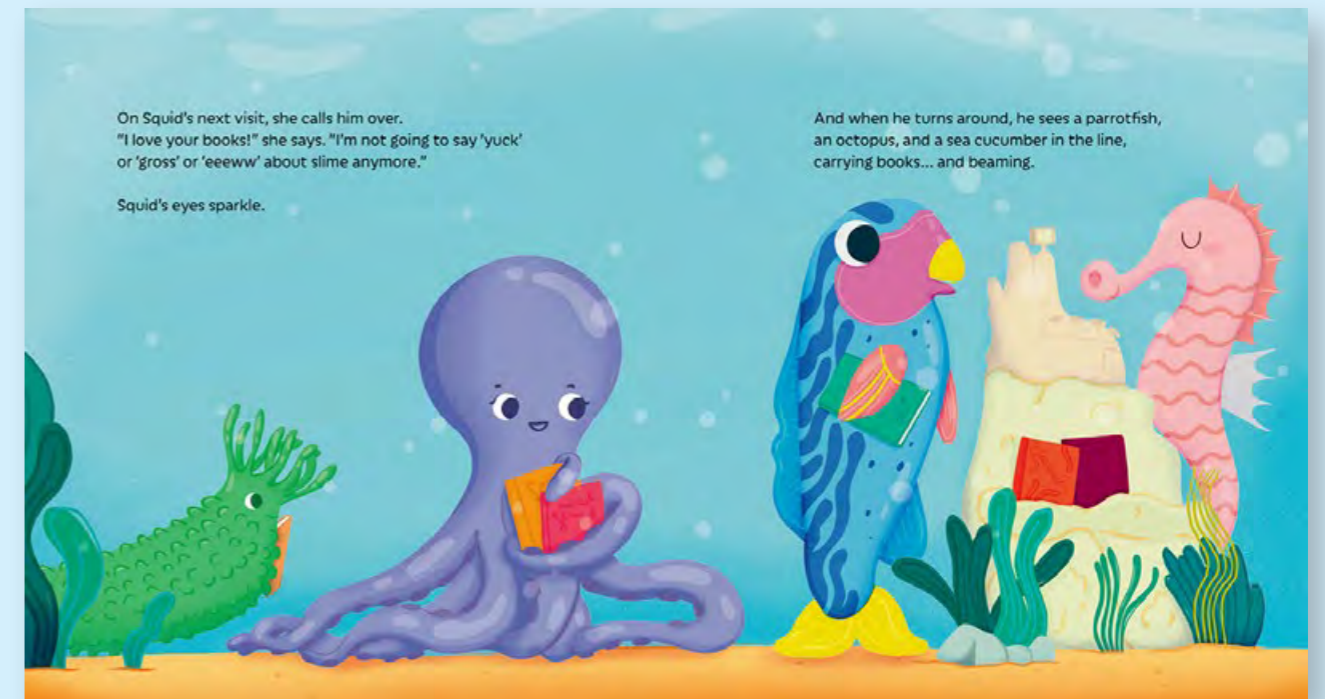
Liz Bennett lives in tropical Darwin, Australia, and has a background in social work, law, and dispute resolution. With a lifelong love of storytelling, Liz has published poetry and other writing locally and internationally and has been nominated for several writing awards. She has long wanted to write for children and loves dreaming up ideas on the veranda of the house-on-stilts where she brought up her own.

Nicole Curti grew up reading children's books and watching animation films, dreaming of one day creating her own. In 2010 Nicole graduated from IED as an illustrator and animator, and after gaining work experience elsewhere, decided to devote herself entirely to this field. She has since collaborated with many publishers and private customers. Nicole takes her inspiration from nature, the mountains, and flowers found around her.



Key Features:

- Informs children about some of Earth's fascinating lesser-known creatures that create and use slime for survival.
- Explores the importance of representation, equality, and diversity.
- Bold and colorful illustrations that will transport readers to the bottom of the ocean to share in the adventures of these slimy characters.



Moxie vs Cat Memes

Moxie wants cuddles, but Wally only wants to watch cat memes! How will she get his attention?

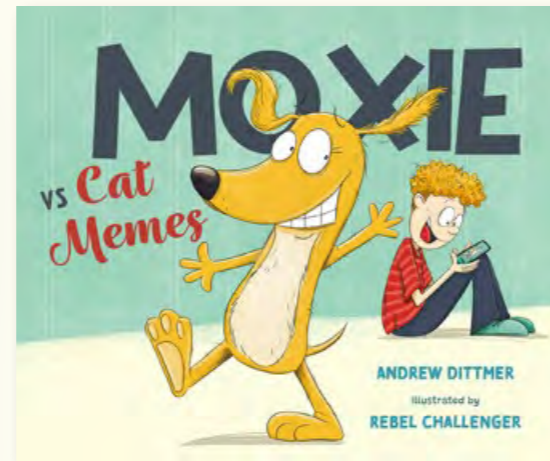
Moxie wants her snuggly cuddles, but Wally is too busy watching... cat memes! It's more than a dog can take. Moxie tries everything she can to attract his focus, but Wally barely notices her amazing tricks. It's going to take something really special to get Wally's attention off his phone and onto Moxie where it belongs.

Fun, action-filled illustrations will enrapture and captivate.

Andrew Dittmer is an Australian children's author who loves zooming down hills on his bike, sliding down waves on his surfboard, and spotting the incredible animals found in Australia. He writes picture books that he hopes children will hound their parents to read again and again. His stories aim to be fun and help children know they are infinitely valuable, highly capable, and that they each have special talents they'll use to make the world a better place.

Andrew Dittmer & Rebel Challenger
Children's Picture Book
Hardcover | 32 pages | 978-1-80036-072-3
Trim Size: 8.5" H x 10.3" W
List Price: \$18.95
Publisher: Starfish Bay® Publishing

Genre: Contemporary Realistic Fiction / Humorous Fiction / Social-Emotional Learning / Pet Story
Reading Level: Grade 1-2
Interest Level: Grades PreK-2
Guided Reading Level: K
Lexile® Measure: 400L
Accelerated Reader® Level/Points: 2.0/0.5



Key Features:

- A fast-paced, bouncing story bound to sweep up young readers.
- A story that gets to grips with the modern age of memes.
- Dynamic characters brilliantly carry the amusing action to the story's conclusion.

Rebel Challenger is an artist and wildlife carer from Queensland, Australia. Her illustrations are filled with humor and heart and are mostly inspired by the animals who wander around her backyard and animals from all over the world who she would love to meet one day.

Themes:

- Technology Addiction/Screen Time - The dangers of excessive device use
- Attention and Presence - Being present with loved ones
- Loneliness - Feeling ignored and disconnected
- Persistence - Moxie's repeated attempts to get attention
- Communication - Different ways of expressing needs
- Human-Animal Bond - The special relationship between pets and people
- Problem-Solving - Finding creative solutions to challenges
- Love and Loyalty - Unconditional love despite being ignored
- Quality Time - The importance of unplugged connection



Beep the Sheep

An endearingly earnest sheep named Beep sets off on a hilarious farm adventure to find her true voice.

Beep is a little confused. As the only sheep on the farm, she doesn't quite know what sound to make. Every morning, mimicking the tractor's horn, Beep greets Farmer Paul not with a 'baa' but a 'beep'!

But Beep doesn't feel that this sound is quite right for her, so she sets off to gather different noises from all the animals. How about a 'neigh'? Maybe a 'moo' will do?

This delightfully funny farm tale about finding your voice will engage young readers and makes a perfect read-aloud book. Vibrant illustrations bring the animals and the farmyard setting to life.

Maia Batumashvili was born in Tbilisi, Georgia, in 1978. From a young age, Maia has loved to draw and is inspired by the children's books and cartoons she grew up with. After graduating from two art institutes, Maia worked on an animation project before finally realizing her dream of illustrating children's books. When Maia is not creating imaginative worlds, she enjoys spending time with her three beautiful children and her dog, Tayo.

Jessie May & Maia Batumashvili
Children's Picture Book
Hardcover | 32 pages | 978-1-80036-055-6
Trim Size: 8.5" H x 10.3" W
List Price: \$18.95
Publisher: Starfish Bay® Publishing

Genre: Humorous Fiction / Self-Discovery
Reading Level: Grade K-2
Interest Level: Grades PreK-3
Guided Reading Level: I
Lexile® Measure: 440L
Accelerated Reader® Level/Points: 2.1/0.5

Jessie May always wanted to be able to have a conversation with her dog, Buck. She wondered what he would say if he could. Unfortunately, this proved to be impossible. So instead, she decided to write stories where the impossible is possible—where talking animals, magic, and wild adventures can all exist just because she wants them to.



Key Features:

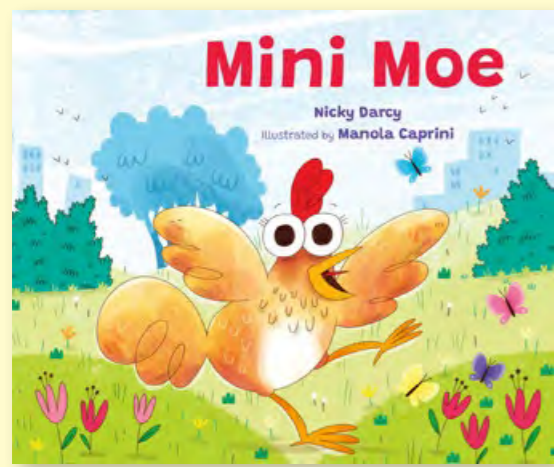
- Explores the relatable theme of finding your voice and discovering who you are
- Rhyming, wordplay, and animal sounds make it a fun read-aloud story
- Features a vibrant, engaging, and beautifully illustrated farmyard setting

Themes:

- Finding your authentic voice
- Self-discovery and identity
- Being different and unique
- Friendship and belonging
- Learning from others
- Farm animals and sounds
- Perseverance and determination
- Acceptance and embracing yourself
- Community and helping each other
- Growing and developing confidence



Mini Moe



Key Features:

- A funny story about friendship, making a mess, and consequences.
- Onomatopoeia, alliteration, and rhyming elements make this a fun read-aloud.
- Delightfully detailed and humorous illustrations that perfectly capture the fun and chaos of this story.

Nicky Darcy resides in Adelaide, South Australia. She is a primary school teacher, with a background in journalism. "Mini Moe" is her first children's picture book. As a mother and a teacher she believes that stories provide children a safe space to learn, connect and explore the world around them. She hopes this light-hearted story will bring joy to your children's day!

Themes:

- Mischief and adventure
- Friendship between different animals
- Curiosity and consequences
- Pet antics and humor
- Food motivation
- Learning from mistakes
- Forgiveness and understanding
- The importance of friendship
- Indoor/outdoor boundaries
- Finding what truly matters

When Annie leaves the door open, a hungry chicken and her dog best friend cause chaos inside the house.

Two things rule Mini Moe's roost—food and fun. And today, like every day, Mini Moe is starving hungry and ready to play with her dog friend, Ted. So, when their human Annie leaves the back door open, it's the perfect opportunity for Mini Moe to sneak inside and find a snack—and Ted's dog biscuits will be perfect. What comes next is chaos, as Mini Moe and Ted enjoy a chase through the house, knocking this and that, until Annie catches them in the act. This funny story, featuring detailed and humorous illustrations will be sure to keep kids laughing.

Nicky Darcy & Manola Caprini
Children's Picture Book
Hardcover | 40 pages | 978-1-76036-213-3
Trim Size: 8.5" H x 10.3" W
List Price: \$18.95
Publisher: Starfish Bay® Publishing

Genre: Realistic Fiction / Animal Story / Humor
Reading Level: Grade 1-2
Interest Level: Grades PreK-3
Guided Reading Level: K
Lexile® Measure: 510L
Accelerated Reader® Level/Points: 2.5/0.5

Since childhood, **Manola Caprini** has always had a deep passion for art. Since making the decision to pursue illustration, Manola studied art and has collaborated with many Italian publishers. Now working as a freelance illustrator, she has published several children's books internationally. Manola also enjoys reading, walking in the countryside, and taking naps!



One Lonely Lizard

A lonely lizard wonders why other animals get all the attention then realises no one sees him due to his camouflage.

Bruce, a lonely lizard, just wants a friend. He spends his days trying to catch the eyes of passersby, but the other Australian animals get all the attention. It's not until he sees some eyes staring at him, and realises that they belong to camouflaged lizards, that he realises that he, too, just can't be seen—and soon he has the friends he's always longed for. This funny story about perseverance, just being yourself, and friendship, written in upbeat rhyming verse, with playful and expressive illustrations, is sure to delight and amuse young readers.

Karyn Miller is a New Zealand born author who lives in Queensland, Australia. After gaining a Diploma in Creative Writing with distinctions, Karyn found her true calling and passion in life - to craft heartfelt, thought-provoking picture books that will instil curiosity and a love of reading into children all around the world. With several years of experience working with young children as a Teacher Aide, Karyn aims to encourage children who live in a world full of judgement, to be unapologetically themselves.

Karyn Miller & Giulia Lombardo
Children's Picture Book
Hardcover | 32 pages | 978-1-80036-073-0
Trim Size: 8.5" H x 10.3" W
List Price: \$18.95
Publisher: Starfish Bay® Publishing

Genre: Animal Fiction / Friendship
Reading Level: Grade K-2
Interest Level: Grades PreK-3
Guided Reading Level: J
Lexile® Measure: 490L
Accelerated Reader® Level/Points: 2.4/0.5

Themes:
• Loneliness and isolation
• Finding belonging and friendship

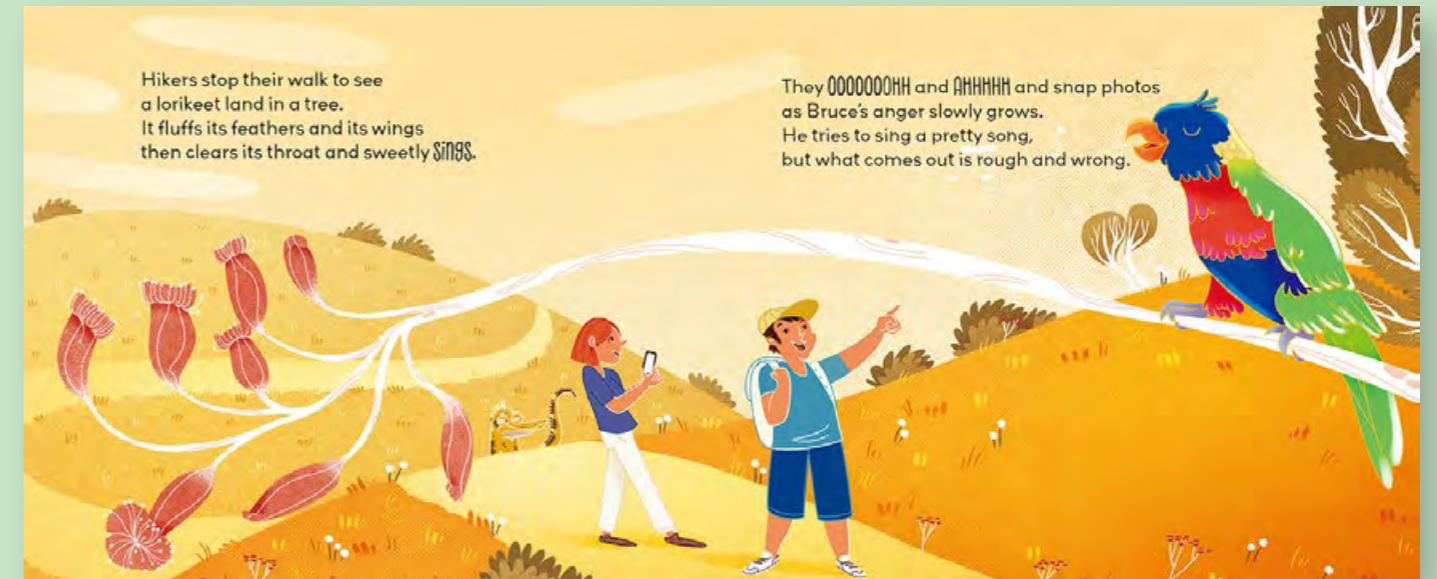


Key Features:

- A funny story about perseverance, just being yourself, and finding friendship.
- Upbeat, rhythmic rhyming verse.
- Playful and expressive illustrations that capture the uniqueness of the Australian setting and wildlife.

Giulia Lombardo was born in Florence, Italy on Christmas Eve, 1991. She lives and works in a small studio surrounded by cats, dogs and other animals, as well as her colleague Arianna. Giulia graduated from the Nemo Academy of Digital Arts in 2013, and since then has worked as a children's book illustrator alongside several international publishers. In her spare time, Giulia builds vintage chicken coops, produces homemade yoghurt and enjoys trekking.

- Being yourself authentically
- Camouflage and natural adaptation
- Acceptance and self-acceptance
- Trying to fit in
- Discovering your unique qualities
- Australian wildlife and habitat
- Persistence in seeking connection
- Community and inclusion



Hikers stop their walk to see a lorikeet land in a tree. It fluffs its feathers and its wings then clears its throat and sweetly sings.

They OOOOOOHH and AHHHHH and snap photos as Bruce's anger slowly grows. He tries to sing a pretty song, but what comes out is rough and wrong.



"Yes! We all blend in with dirt! I'm Agnes, this is Les, and Bert. If we stood out, life would be bleak. We'd end up in that eagle's beak! So, we spend our days as statues, and in the sizzling sun we snooze."



Then he sees a hiking crowd near a dingo, standing proud. It sniffs the air and shakes its tail then bolts away back down the trail.

"Oh, so cute!" yells one small boy. "I want to take it as my toy!" "Hey!" cries Bruce. "Look here at me! I'm cute too. Why can't you see?"

Unicorns Do NOT Exist (YES, They Do!)



Key Features:

- A magical tale about how important it is to believe.
- Isla shows off some fun and creative unicorn-related ideas for kids to help make the magic just that bit more real!
- Sibling mischief is portrayed to perfection in these funny and fun-filled illustrations.

Elisia Seeber & Sian Moore
Children's Picture Book
Hardcover | 32 pages | 978-1-76036-219-5
Trim Size: 8.5" H x 10.3" W
List Price: \$18.95
Publisher: Starfish Bay® Publishing

Genre: Fantasy / Humorous Fiction
Reading Level: Grade 1-2
Interest Level: Grades PreK-4
Guided Reading Level: J
Lexile® Measure: 490L
Accelerated Reader® Level/Points: 2.5/0.5

Themes:

- Belief and imagination
- Magic and wonder
- Perseverance and determination
- Sibling dynamics
- Power of faith and belief
- Creativity and problem-solving
- Standing up for what you believe
- Proving yourself
- Magic requires belief
- Friendship and conviction

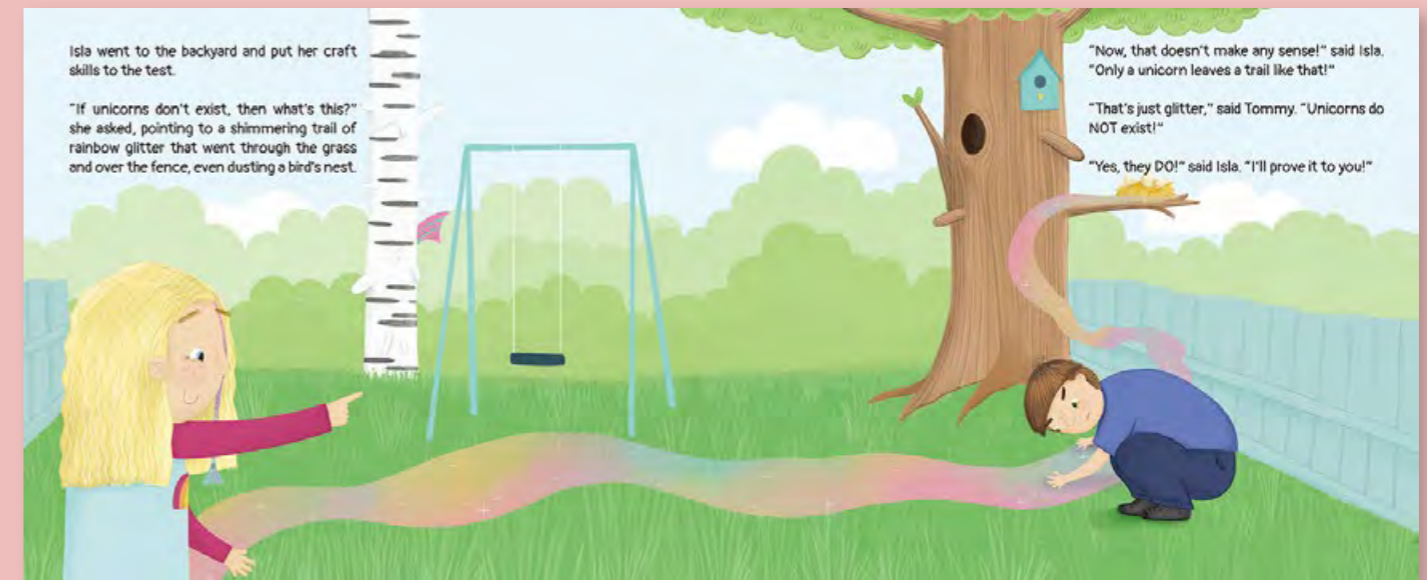
Elisia Seeber is an author, journalist, and digital producer living in Perth, Western Australia. With a Bachelor's degree in Communications and Media, she focused her writing career on nonfiction, until a very special little girl reminded her how wild and wonderful our imaginations can be, reigniting her childhood love for creative writing. She hopes her stories will inspire creativity and curiosity, encouraging children to always stand for what they believe in – even if that is unicorns.

Sian Moore is a freelance illustrator from Wales. She graduated in 2014 after four years of studying illustration and now works from home with "help" from her two young daughters. She works digitally to create her illustrations and over the years has worked with a variety of children's magazines, recently stepping into the world of publishing and realizing her dream of illustrating picture books.

Unicorns DO exist, and Isla is going to prove it – even if she has to tell a few fibs along the way.

Unicorns DO exist, and Isla is going to prove it. She tries everything she can think of to convince Tommy that unicorns are real: trails of glitter, a fake horn from a unicorn costume, and she even whips up some sparkly unicorn poo. But no matter what scheme Isla tries, Tommy just doesn't want to BELIEVE...

How can Isla convince Tommy that unicorns really ARE real? Immerse readers in magical mischief with these fun-filled illustrations bringing the unbelievable to life.



Woolly Biscuits

Woolly Biscuits



Key Features:

- A delightful story about the importance of friendships and family.
- Explores the importance of being kind and caring to those you love.
- Bright and spirited illustrations that perfectly capture the theme and characters of this wonderful story.

Themes:

- Friendship and loyalty
- Family love and support
- Helping those in need
- Problem-solving together
- Kindness and compassion
- Creativity and handmade gifts
- Generosity and cooperation
- Caring for animals
- Gratitude and appreciation
- Community and connection

When Biscuits the sheep is sheared, his best friend sets out to cheer him up.

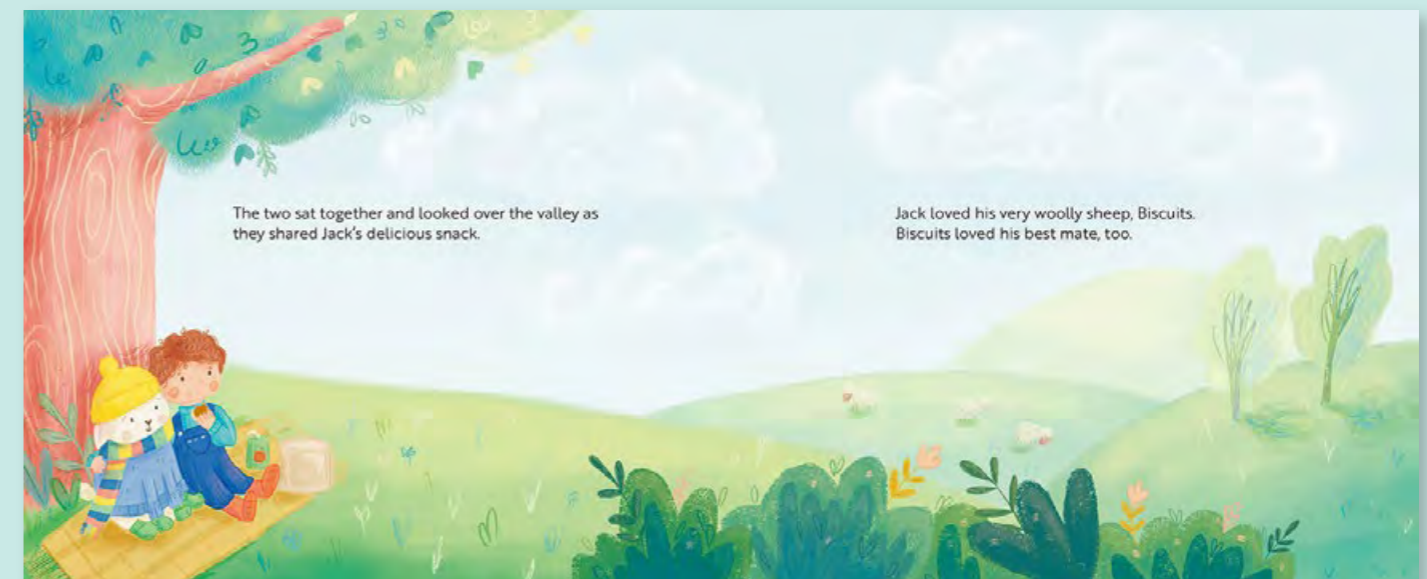
Jack shares a strong bond with his family and best friend Biscuits the sheep, so when Biscuits is sheared, Jack wants to make sure that he feels warm and happy. After learning that his family will use Biscuits' wool to make clothes, Jack thinks it would be nice to make a few cozy items for his friend. Can the help of his creative family finally cheer up Biscuits? This is a delightful story about close-knit relationships between friends and family, featuring warm and engaging illustrations that readers will adore.

Leisa Jack & Jasmine O'Donoghue
Children's Picture Book
Hardcover | 32 pages | 978-1-76036-238-6
Trim Size: 8.5" H x 10.3" W
List Price: \$18.95
Publisher: Starfish Bay® Publishing

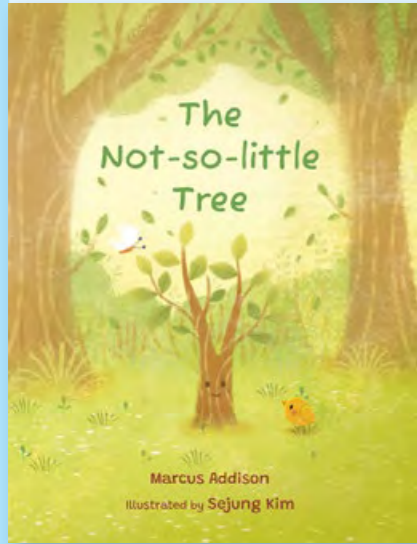
Genre: Realistic Fiction / Friendship Story
Reading Level: Grade K-1
Interest Level: Grades PreK-3
Guided Reading Level: I
Lexile® Measure: 430L
Accelerated Reader® Level/Points: 1.9/0.5

Jasmine O'Donoghue is an illustrator from the UK who, from a young age, has always found joy in being creative. Her first success was winning a competition at preschool to have her stick figure painting printed on a mug. After having her first child, her passion for illustration was reignited. Inspired by her two children, she enjoys illustrating imaginative worlds.

Leisa Jack lives in North Queensland, Australia, and has also travelled around her vast country, which has given inspiration in writing this fun, warm book that connects family. Leisa is an early childhood educator and is passionate about children learning to activate their imagination in a natural environment. Leisa recalls the years that she made up stories, retelling them to her own children, their curiosity enhanced by their excitement. This gave Leisa a passion to write children's books.



The Not-so-little Tree



Key Features:

- An engaging story that explores the life cycle of a tree as it grows from seed to sapling, fed and nurtured by water and sunlight.
- A joyful celebration of the cycle of life, with all its joys and sorrows, exploring the impatience of the young and the wisdom that comes from experience.
- A life-affirming story of friendship, the relationship between young and old, and wisdom passed down through the generations.

A joyous celebration of life's journey and the joys and sorrows of growing up, beautifully told through the metaphor of a tiny tree who longs to be bigger.

In this moving tale of friendship, nature, and the cycle of life, a little seedling longs to be bigger. A big tree tells him to be patient, assuring him that one day, he will have his day in the sun. Time passes, and through sun and rain, the little tree grows. The little and big trees weather life's storms side-by-side, until one journey is finally complete and a new one is ready to begin. This is a lyrical and life-affirming story of the joys and sorrows of growing up and the importance of being patient and enjoying the wondrous journey of life.

Themes:

- Patience and the passage of time - growth cannot be rushed
- Finding purpose and meaning - "your day in the sun" metaphor
- Intergenerational wisdom - learning from elders, becoming mentors
- The cycle of life and death - natural progression, not tragedy
- Legacy and continuity - passing knowledge to the next generation

Marcus Addison & Sejung Kim
Children's Picture Book
Hardcover | 32 pages | 978-1-76036-239-3
Trim Size: 11.0" H x 8.5" W
List Price: \$18.95
Publisher: Starfish Bay® Publishing

Genre: Philosophical Fiction / Life Cycle Story
Reading Level: Grade 2-3
Interest Level: Grades K-5+ (extends to adult)
Guided Reading Level: J
Lexile® Measure: 540L
Accelerated Reader® Level/Points: 2.9/0.5

Marcus Addison is an Australian author from a little place called The Shire. As a Master's student of Creative Writing at Sydney University he loves writing about many things but almost always about trees. His dream is to cover the earth in green again. He was a kid once too, you know, and vowed never to grow up. So far so good! Now he is 'not-so-little' himself and has four children of his own. They are his inspiration now, and he believes it is this chosen generation (which is you), that will bring nature back into balance throughout the world. He is currently writing a middle grade novel that is, no surprise, narrated by the trees. He hopes his broad life experience in finance, teaching, and healthcare enriches his writing of people and nature.

Sejung Kim is an illustrator from South Korea, now living and working in France. She specializes in children's literature and has collaborated with numerous French and international publishing houses. Always on the lookout for inspiring projects for young and old alike, she aspires to create images that resonate with the child in all of us.



The Tug of the Plug

Bathtime for Wiley the crocodile turns into adventure when he gets sucked down the plughole.

Join Wiley the crocodile on a wild adventure that starts with a belly flop and ends with a daring escape. Wiley loves bathtime but does not expect to get sucked into an underground lair with a hideous creature, become a potential meal for granny in a bustling city, and a daring circus performer for a cunning ringmaster. Will the help of some new friends ensure that Wiley returns to his beloved bath? A hilarious and exciting rhyming story, with expressive illustrations that perfectly depict the danger, thrills, and fun of this wonderful story.



Key Features:

- An exciting and funny story told in fast-paced rhythm and rhyme.
- Humorous language that encourages phonological awareness and language skills.
- Expressive, dynamic, and colourful illustrations that will delight and engage readers of all ages.

Sarah Jancevski & Nicole Allin
Children's Picture Book
Hardcover | 32 pages | 978-1-76036-243-0
Trim Size: 8.5" H x 10.3" W
List Price: \$18.95
Publisher: Starfish Bay® Publishing

Genre: Fantasy / Adventure Fiction
Reading Level: Grade 2-3
Interest Level: Grades K-4
Guided Reading Level: L
Lexile® Measure: 550L
Accelerated Reader® Level/Points: 2.9/0.5

Themes:

- Adventure and excitement
- Problem-solving and resourcefulness
- Unexpected journeys
- Friendship and helping others
- Courage and bravery
- Escaping danger
- Humor in adversity
- Home and belonging
- Perseverance and determination
- Bath time fun



He was made to perform there to earn his fair keep, leaping through fire and juggling sheep.



Poor Wiley was sore from his rump to his snout. He knew it was time for a circus breakout.

Earth's Moving Day



Key Features:

- STEM Learning Through Story: Introduces children to the solar system, planetary characteristics, and basic astronomy concepts in an engaging, accessible way.
- A fun and engaging story that encourages environmental awareness by showing how small, everyday actions can help protect our planet.
- Delightfully vivid and lively illustrations that capture the excitement of the story and the importance of its message.

Louise Pocock & Camilla Garofano
Children's Picture Book
Hardcover | 40 pages | 978-1-76036-271-3
Trim Size: 8.5" H x 10.3" W
List Price: \$18.95
Publisher: Starfish Bay® Publishing

Genre: Environmental Fiction / STEM Adventure
Reading Level: Grade 2-3
Interest Level: Grades K-5
Guided Reading Level: M
Lexile® Measure: 580L
Accelerated Reader® Level/Points: 2.8/0.5

Themes:

- Environmental awareness and climate change
- Problem-solving and creative thinking
- Friendship and teamwork
- Science education and learning
- Small actions making big differences
- Resourcefulness and determination
- Global citizenship and responsibility
- Understanding complex problems
- Hope and empowerment for children
- Imagination meets reality

Mia and her friend Zach attempt to fix Earth by cooling the planet down.

Mia loves to fix small things but decides to fix something bigger—Earth. With help from her friend Zach, Mia learns about the effects of greenhouse gasses and decides to move Earth to a cooler place in the solar system. But when her plan fails, Mia discovers that big ideas don't always solve problems, and sometimes it's the little things that help. This is an entertaining and informative story that teaches children about the effects of global warming while also suggesting everyday actions we can take to create change. The vivid and lively illustrations will delight all readers.

Louise Pocock loves the Australian outdoors and being creative—you can often find her writing in the sand at Palm Beach with her two young children. She is a company director and lawyer and is especially proud to sit on boards which encourage creativity in young people, like the Australian Children's Music Foundation.

Camilla Garofano is an illustrator from Tuscany, Italy, who specializes in digital and traditional techniques. Camilla focuses on the female figure and literature, and has published over thirty books worldwide, highlighting her strong connection to fiction.

She'd fix Earth! The planet was warming, and this was causing problems.

"We're too close to the Sun," thought Mia. Earth should move to a cooler neighbourhood!

But planets are heavy, so she would need some help.



So, even though they couldn't move Earth, Mia now knew that little fixes like these could make a real difference.

What will you do to help keep our planet cool?

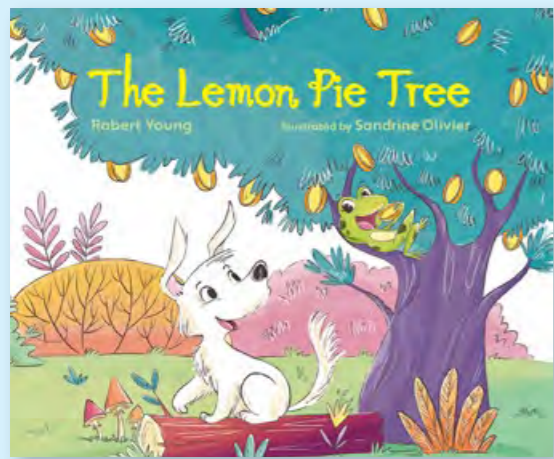


The Lemon Pie Tree

Robert Young is a first-time author, part-time golfer, full-time father, kid's soccer coach, and Tottenham Hotspur SUPER FAN. He lives on the beautiful East Coast of Australia with his wife and two children and enjoys making Nutella pancakes for his family on Sunday mornings.

Four animals vie for a tree's lemon pies, and their attempt to decide things becomes a divide.

A dog, an ox, a frog, and a fox are craving pies from the lemon pie tree. When a fight breaks out, the lemon tree opens his eyes and announces that his pies are for sharing. There are enough lemon pies for everyone. 'But who is everyone?' the friends wonder. Everyone is everyone! All the animals flock together to share in the sweet lemon pies.



Key Features:

- Bouncing rhyme carries the story to an exciting conclusion.
- A zany cast of animal characters.
- Bold character designs bring to life a unique and fun concept.

Robert Young & Sandrine Olivier
Hardcover | 32 pages | 978-1-80036-063-1
Trim Size: 8.5" H x 10.0" W
List Price: \$18.95
Publisher: Starfish Bay® Publishing

Genre: Fantasy / Moral Tale
Reading Level: Grade 1-2
Interest Level: Grades PreK-4
Guided Reading Level: J
Lexile® Measure: 470L
Accelerated Reader® Level/Points: 2.2/0.5

Themes:

- Sharing and generosity
- Greed and selfishness
- Learning from mistakes
- Community and inclusion
- Magic and wonder
- Cooperation over conflict
- Friendship across differences
- Abundance through sharing
- Conflict resolution
- Joy in togetherness

Sandrine Olivier is a French illustrator and author who, since childhood, has been inspired by children's literature. Sandrine has worked for many publishers in France and abroad. Being curious by nature, Sandrine is inspired by everything around her. Her world is filled with princesses and dragons, wolves and little pigs, adventures for girls and boys.

Just Enough Teeth

Tooth Fairy has too many teeth! With nowhere left to store them, she'll have to sell them instead.

Tooth Fairy has run out of space! She's collected too many teeth, and now she doesn't know where to put them. She decides to set up a tooth sale, but the teeth are too popular, and soon none are left. But her customers want more, and Tooth Fairy needs to find a solution! Rollicking rhyme and charmingly illustrated characters bring this fun tale about creative problem-solving to life.

Pat Simmons lives in Scarborough, New South Wales, Australia, with her two cats, Mr. Meowgi and Oscar. Pat is a writer of poetry, short stories, adult flash fiction, and children's picture books. As a published poet, Pat has won awards in the United Kingdom and Australia. Pat worked in children's services such as Out of School Hours Care, preschool, and at the Australian National Maritime Museum, running school holiday and weekend programs for children before moving into writing.

Nicolas Gouny lives among the cows and trees of a small village in the French countryside. With twenty years of experience in writing and illustrating, Nicolas originally studied literature and economics, working in the publishing industry before becoming an illustrator. His graphic palette creates a colorful and imaginary universe, capturing the subtle poetry of small things.



Key Features:

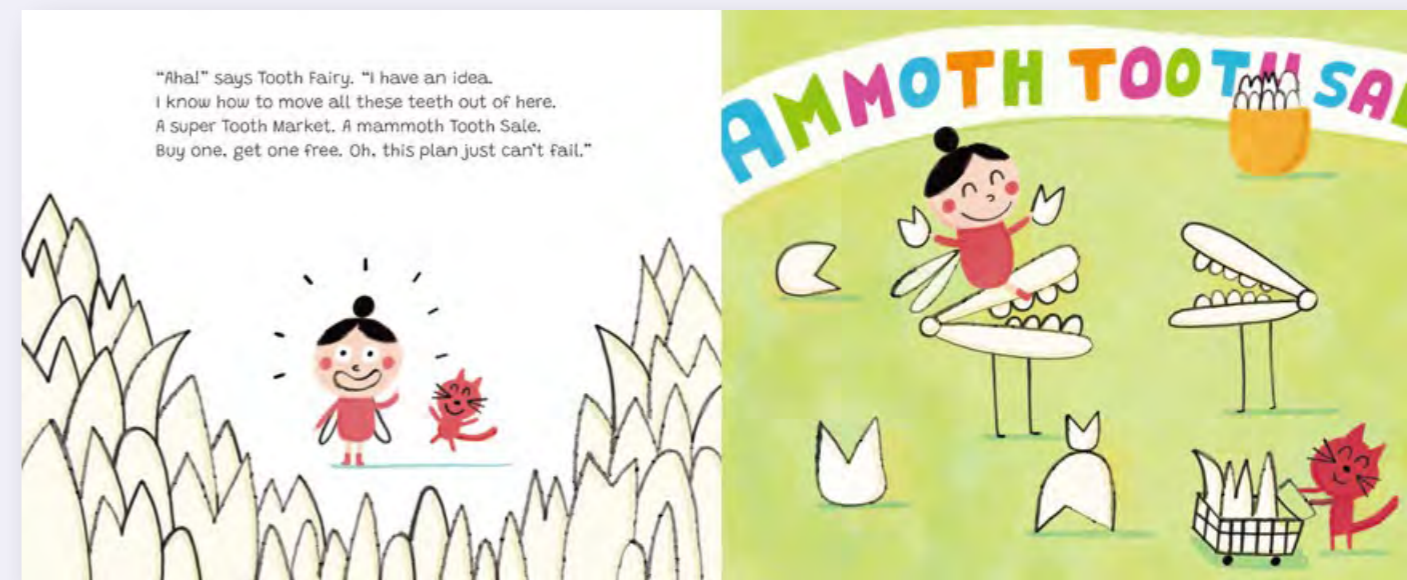
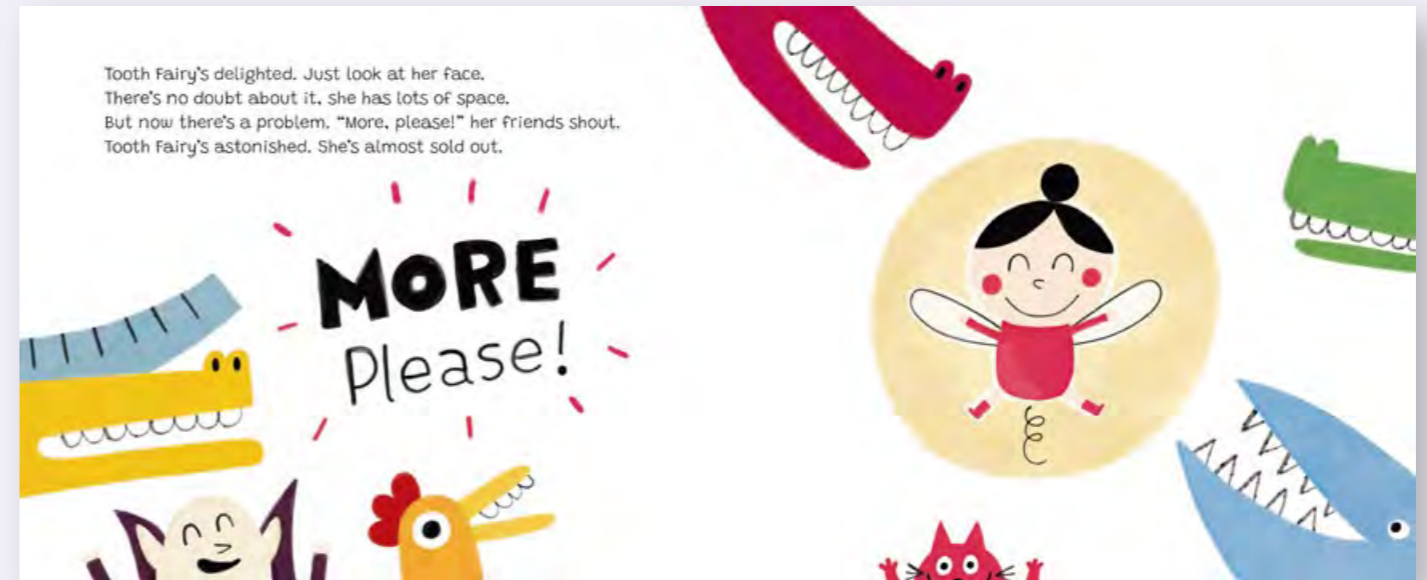
- A fun, fast-paced story told in rollicking rhyme.
- Children will be delighted with the unexpected twists and turns of Tooth Fairy's tale.
- Charmingly illustrated characters bring this book to life.

Pat Simmons & Nicolas Gouny
Children's Picture Book
Hardcover | 32 pages | 978-1-80036-076-1
Trim Size: 8.5" H x 10.3" W
List Price: \$18.95
Publisher: Starfish Bay® Publishing

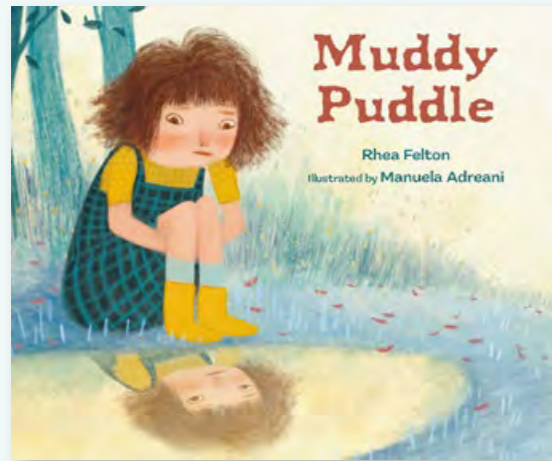
Genre: Fantasy / Humor
Reading Level: Grade 1-2
Interest Level: Grades PreK-3
Guided Reading Level: K
Lexile® Measure: 510L
Accelerated Reader® Level/Points: 2.5/0.5

Themes:

- Problem-solving and creativity
- Supply and demand
- Too much of a good thing
- Entrepreneurship and resourcefulness
- The Tooth Fairy legend
- Community and celebration
- Finding balance
- Humor in everyday challenges
- Sharing and generosity
- Turning problems into opportunities



Muddy Puddle



Key Features:

- A gentle, tender story that demonstrates to children that we can overcome the challenges we face in life through resilience and understanding.
- Encourages children to reflect on their own experiences and find ways to navigate difficulties.
- Beautifully designed and inspiring artwork that enhances the way in which readers will relate and reflect on this beautiful story.

Rhea Felton & Manuela Adreani
Children's Picture Book
Hardcover | 32 pages | 978-1-80036-100-3
Trim Size: 8.5" H x 10.3" W
List Price: \$18.95
Publisher: Starfish Bay® Publishing

Genre: Realistic Fiction / Social-Emotional Learning

Reading Level: Grade K-2

Interest Level: Grades PreK-3

Guided Reading Level: I

Lexile® Measure: 420L

Accelerated Reader® Level/Points: 2.1/0.5

Themes:

- Coping with change and uncertainty
- Finding control through play
- Family stress and disruption
- Processing difficult emotions
- Nature as therapy
- Resilience and empowerment
- Mindfulness and being present
- Childhood independence
- Metaphor for life changes
- Joy through simple activities

A young girl finds strength and comfort in a muddy puddle when she feels disconnected from home.

A young girl called Rosie faces a quiet and uncertain time at home. Feeling disconnected, she finds comfort in a muddy puddle outside. Each action she takes—whether it's placing a leaf, dropping a rock, or jumping in—gives her a sense of control. With each ripple and splash, Rosie discovers that change is a part of life and something she can face and manage. This is a gentle, tender story, filled with artwork that perfectly captures the themes of resilience and self-empowerment. The story demonstrates that while we are unable to control everything, we can still navigate change.

Rhea Felton grew up on the edge of expansive bushland, where she spent her childhood exploring trails and searching for puddles. Her picture books combine playfulness with everyday moments, inspiring children to believe in themselves and their ability to shape the world around them. Rhea is currently completing her PhD and works in the child welfare sector, specializing in research and evaluation. She lives in Wollongong, Australia, with her husband and two daughters.

Manuela Adreani is an illustrator from Italy. After completing a diploma in illustration, she worked as a graphic designer before progressing to the world of animation thanks to a scholarship for a master's course in animation at the European Institute of Design, Turin. Manuela has worked on a TV series produced and broadcast by Italy's RAI television and now works as a freelance illustrator, collaborating with many publishing houses worldwide.

She picks up a leaf and places it gently on top, watching it sway softly and smoothly in the wind. She doesn't want this moment to stop.

Rosie's puddle is calm as she watches her leaf swirl. Now, she is ready for the water to be rough and rocky. She wants to watch it whirl.



Rosie leans forward, and down below in the puddle, she sees her hair, her mouth, and her eyes staring back, filled with trouble.

Rosie's puddle is a hole in the muddy ground. She sees there are rocks and leaves scattered about, with glistening green grass all around.

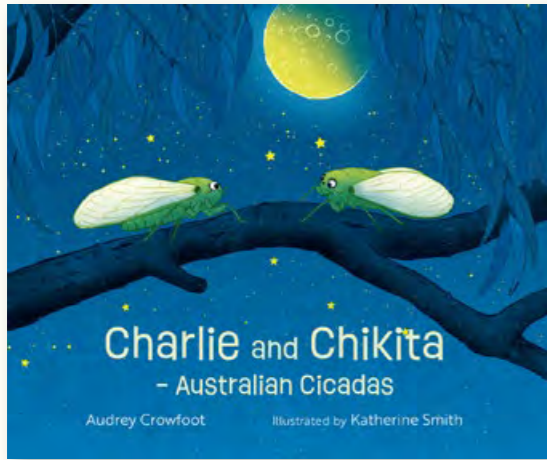


Rosie's puddle is something she changed with ease.

She made it ripple, she made it splash, and she made it calm as she pleased.



Charlie and Chikita – Australian Cicadas



Key Features:

- An exciting and heartwarming story that will delight readers as they learn about the life cycle of cicadas.
- Told in an entertaining and engaging way, this book explores themes of friendships and support.
- Detailed illustrations that capture the beauty and excitement of this engaging and educational story.

The life cycle of cicadas told beautifully through an exciting story set in the Australian bushland.

On a hot summer's day, deep in the Australian bushland, two cicada nymphs hatch and embark on an adventure of survival, friendship, and resilience. After burrowing underground to escape a hungry wasp, the pair re-emerge after seven years to find that more danger awaits. Can the two friends overcome the challenges they face, through the power of loyalty and support, and finally find a safe place to call home? This is a journey filled with suspense, heartwarming adventure, and beautifully designed illustrations that also teaches children the life cycle of this wondrous insect.

Audrey Crowfoot lives in New South Wales, Australia. She grew up exploring the bush, building cubbies, and climbing trees. Audrey appreciates the simple things in life and is happiest when camping in the bush, gazing at a starry night sky, or walking barefoot along a sandy beach. Audrey hopes her stories will foster a love for the natural environment, curiosity, and a sense of wonder.

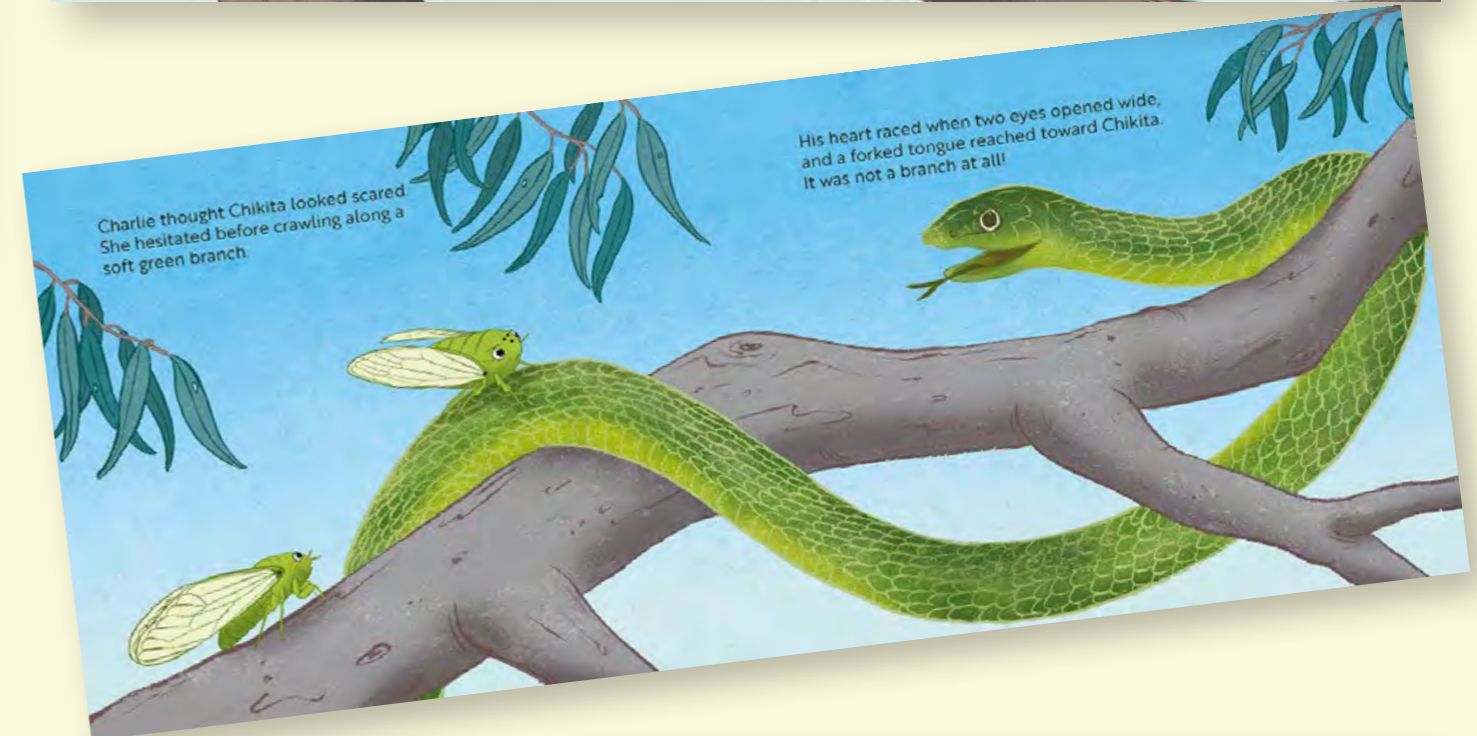
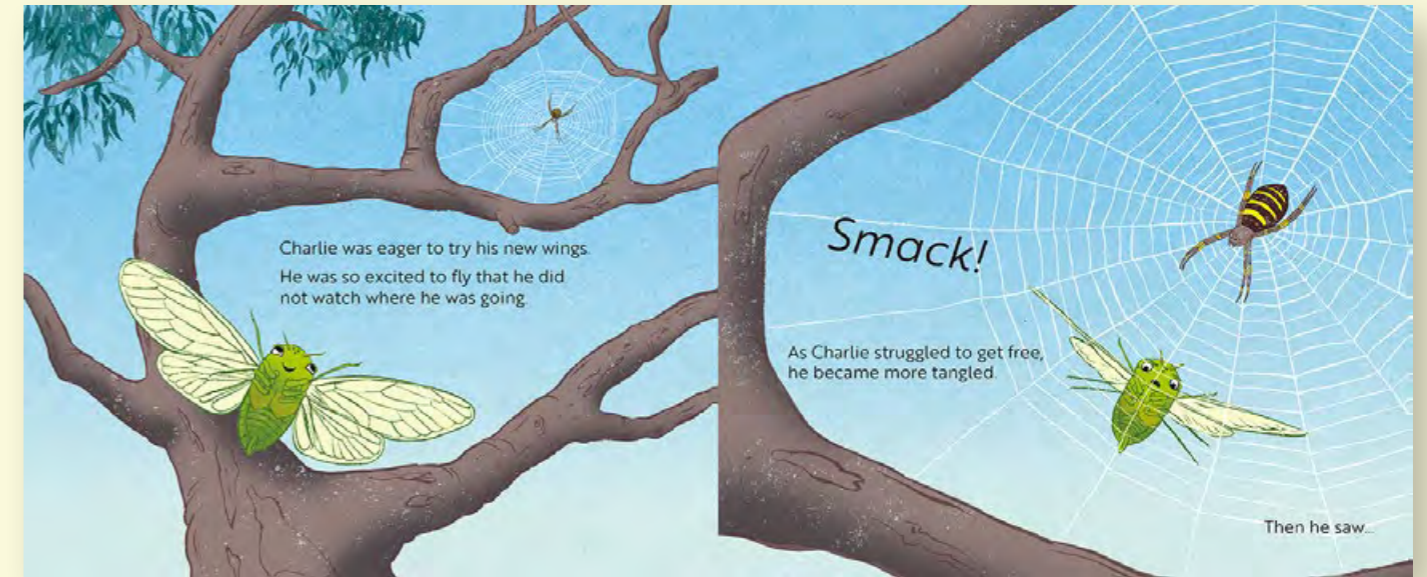
Katherine Smith is an illustrator, designer, and artist based in Sydney, Australia. Originally trained in design, she later studied fine art, which naturally led her to illustration as a convergence of both disciplines. She earned a master's degree in Illustration from the Savannah College of Art and Design, and her artworks are sold internationally. In her spare time, Katherine enjoys swimming, free-diving, and scuba diving.

Audrey Crowfoot & Katherine Smith
Children's Picture Book
Hardcover | 40 pages | 978-1-76036-254-6
Trim Size: 8.5" H x 10.3" W
List Price: \$18.95
Publisher: Starfish Bay® Publishing

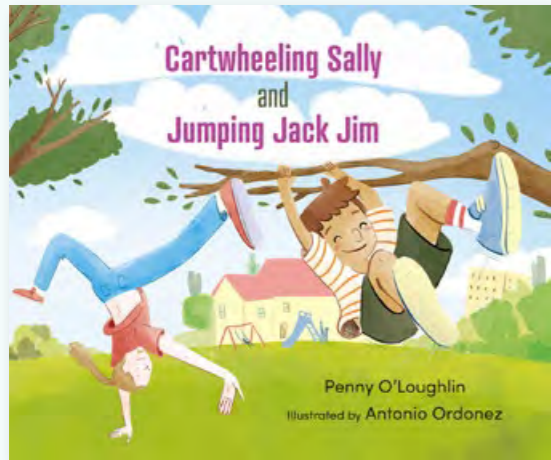
Genre: Nature/Science Fiction / Adventure
Reading Level: Grade 2-3
Interest Level: Grades K-4
Guided Reading Level: M
Lexile® Measure: 580L
Accelerated Reader® Level/Points: 3.1/0.5

Themes:

- Friendship and loyalty
- Survival in nature
- Life cycles and metamorphosis
- Perseverance through challenges
- Australian wildlife and ecosystem
- Predator and prey relationships
- Journey from youth to adulthood
- Partnership and mutual support
- Natural history and science learning
- Circle of life and new beginnings



Cartwheeling Sally and Jumping Jack Jim



Key Features:

- A fun-filled and energetic story about two children who come to the rescue!
- Children will love this hilarious adventure that shows the positives of having lots of energy!
- Vibrant and dynamic illustrations that capture the joy and liveliness of this wonderful book.

Cartwheeling Sally and Jumping Jack Jim prove that restless kids can be heroes in their own unique way.

Cartwheeling Sally and Jumping Jack Jim just can't keep still—no matter how much they're told to! Whipping and whirling, wriggling and jiggling, their bodies have a mind of their own—until the time comes when their skills are needed to help save the day! A bouncing and energetic story, filled with fun, adventure, and vibrant illustrations. This book proves that everyone can be a hero—even if they can't sit down!

Penny O'Loughlin & Antonio Ordonez
Children's Picture Book
Hardcover | 40 pages | 978-1-76036-253-9
Trim Size: 8.5" H x 10.3" W
List Price: \$18.95
Publisher: Starfish Bay® Publishing

Genre: Realistic Fiction / Social-Emotional Learning
Reading Level: Grade 2-3
Interest Level: Grades K-4
Guided Reading Level: L
Lexile® Measure: 540L
Accelerated Reader® Level/Points: 2.8/0.5

Themes:

- Neurodiversity and acceptance
- ADHD and hyperactivity representation
- Celebrating differences and unique abilities
- Finding your strengths and purpose
- Being a hero in unexpected ways
- Overcoming judgment and misunderstanding
- Self-acceptance and pride
- Using your gifts to help others
- The value of people who are different
- Everyone has an important place

Penny O'Loughlin lives in Melbourne, Australia, and is the mother of two vibrant and very busy boys. She studied Architecture and Landscape Architecture at Melbourne University and works as a Landscape Designer. Penny has always had a love of children's books. When younger, Penny would visit the children's book section in bookstores, spending countless hours sitting, reading, and imagining. Penny's desire in her storytelling is to simplify life's complexities into fable-like tales, to warm hearts and hit chords with both children and adults alike.

Antonio Ordonez (known as AtOLonia) was born in Madrid, Spain. Inspired by the birth of his first child, Antonio decided to change career and move into the world of children's illustration. His work is distinguished by the cute, friendly, and expressive characters he creates. He loves to combine digital drawing with watercolor and give free rein to his imagination.



Flora's Odd Socks

Flora the fairy is not happy with her odd socks, so she seeks help to find a matching pair.

Flora is not happy about her odd-looking socks. One has spots, and the other has stripes! Desperate to find a matching pair, she asks the sleeping animals of the forest to help her. Finding difficulty in her quest, Flora meets a plucky kangaroo, who helps her realize that having differences may not be such a bad thing after all. This is a gentle, endearing story about accepting others and yourself and features charming and elegant illustrations.

Rebecca Rivers is a schoolteacher from Western Sydney, Australia. Having studied for a Bachelor of Arts Degree in English Text & Writing and a Master's Degree in Secondary Education, Rebecca is now a high school English and Literacy teacher. She has a passion for storytelling and the lessons shared through books.

Laura Cortinovia is from Bergamo, Italy. She creates worlds and characters with a watercolor technique that represents the easiest way for her to make dreams visible. After taking several courses at the International School of Illustration of Sarnede, Laura has worked as a writer and illustrator, publishing several books. She currently works as a freelancer for Italian publishing houses and brands.



Key Features:

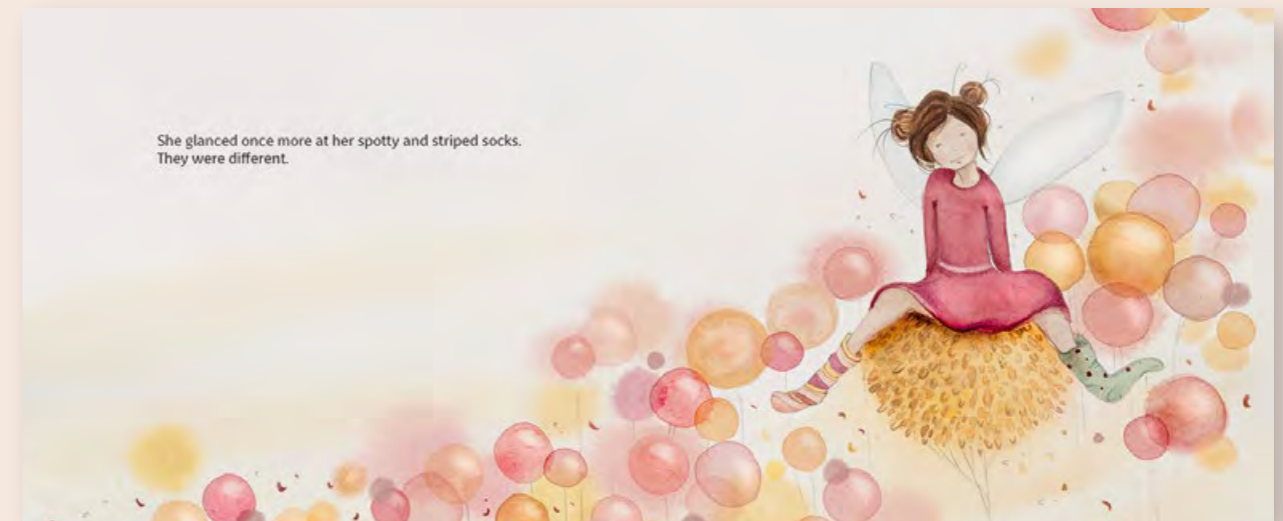
- A warm and fun story that helps children to understand the importance of respecting, understanding, and embracing each other's differences.
- Children will love seeing the endearing characters and following Flora's journey in this delightful story.
- Beautiful and delicate illustrations that highlight the warmth and personality of this lovely story.

Rebecca Rivers & Laura Cortinovia
Children's Picture Book
Hardcover | 40 pages | 978-1-80036-087-7
Trim Size: 8.5" H x 10.3" W
List Price: \$18.95
Publisher: Starfish Bay® Publishing

Genre: Fantasy / Social-Emotional Learning
Reading Level: Grade 1-2
Interest Level: Grades PreK-3
Guided Reading Level: J
Lexile® Measure: 480L
Accelerated Reader® Level/Points: 2.4/0.5

Themes:

- Accepting differences and individuality
- Self-acceptance and self-love
- Celebrating uniqueness
- Looking beyond appearances
- Finding beauty in imperfection
- Perspective and changing viewpoints
- Diversity in nature
- Kindness and compassion
- Learning from others
- Embracing what makes you special



The Mouse Who Tried to Fly



Key Features:

- Bouncing rhyme carries the reader through Fred's dreamy tale.
- A fun, fast story combined with simple language makes this ideal for all listeners and readers!
- Float along with Fred over vivid dreamscapes on this charmingly illustrated adventure.

Tanya Fraser & Aanchal Lodhi
Children's Picture Book
Hardcover | 32 pages | 978-1-76036-216-4
Trim Size: 8.5" H x 10.3" W
List Price: \$18.95
Publisher: Starfish Bay® Publishing

Genre: Fantasy / Adventure Fiction
Reading Level: Grade 1-2
Interest Level: Grades PreK-4
Guided Reading Level: J
Lexile® Measure: 490L
Accelerated Reader® Level/Points: 2.5/0.5

Themes:

- Following dreams and curiosity
- Learning limits and boundaries
- Adventure and exploration
- Safety and consequences
- Appreciating home and family
- Growing up at your own pace
- Problem-solving and resilience
- Asking for help
- Learning from mistakes
- Wonder and imagination

Fred the mouse dreams of flying, but when his soaring turns sour, he discovers he'd rather be at home instead!

Fred the mouse dreams to fly, up, up, and over the world. But when he floats up out of bed, rain and hail fall on his head! Not liking the turn his adventure has taken, Fred dreams of being warm in bed instead. Dynamic illustrations carry us and Fred through this colorful landscape and safely back home.

Tanya Fraser is an author who aspires towards instilling a love of reading among children. Her career in education has developed this passion and provides a platform from which she can spark imagination among her students and celebrate reading. Tanya has raised two children who have been the inspiration for her writing and her companions on many adventures in the Blue Mountains in Australia where she resides.

Aanchal Lodhi is an independent illustrator from Delhi, India. A self-taught artist and an economics graduate by degree, she enjoys creating bright, whimsical, and oh-so-cute illustrations. Her portfolio spans picture books, surface patterns, board game designs, and much more. You'll often spot her at her cozy home studio, bringing new characters to life.



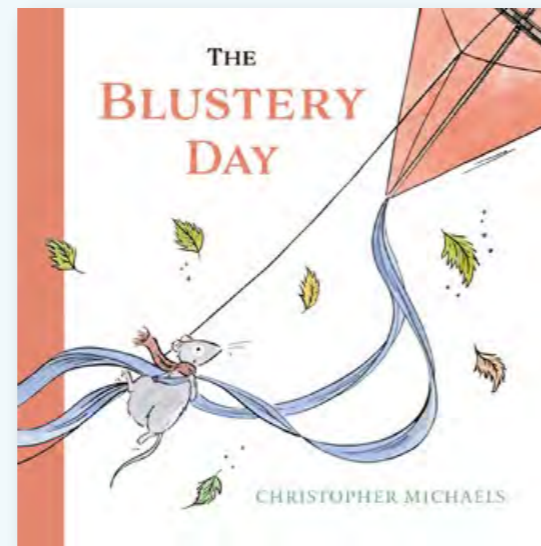
Bruised and tired, cold and wet, this night is one I won't forget.
I've discovered things I didn't know, but I'm in no hurry now to grow.



The Blustery Day

Oat and Barley build a kite, but when they go to fly it, the blustery wind takes Oat with it.

On a blustery day, Oat and Barley decide to fly a kite. Though Barley worries it's a bit too windy for kite flying, Oat is enthusiastic and takes the lead. Together they build it, but when they go to fly it, the wind whips tiny Oat up and into the air. The kite carries Oat all around until landing him right back home. Maybe it was too windy, Oat admits as the friends are reunited. But when it calms, Oat has another great idea to try...



Key Features:

- An exciting story about a bad-weather day to capture a child's imagination.
- Plot, voice, dialogue, and illustrations work together to evoke a sense of timelessness and nostalgia throughout the book, accentuating this simple yet whimsical story.
- Watercolor and ink illustrations paint a dynamic friendship between two different but equally lovable characters.

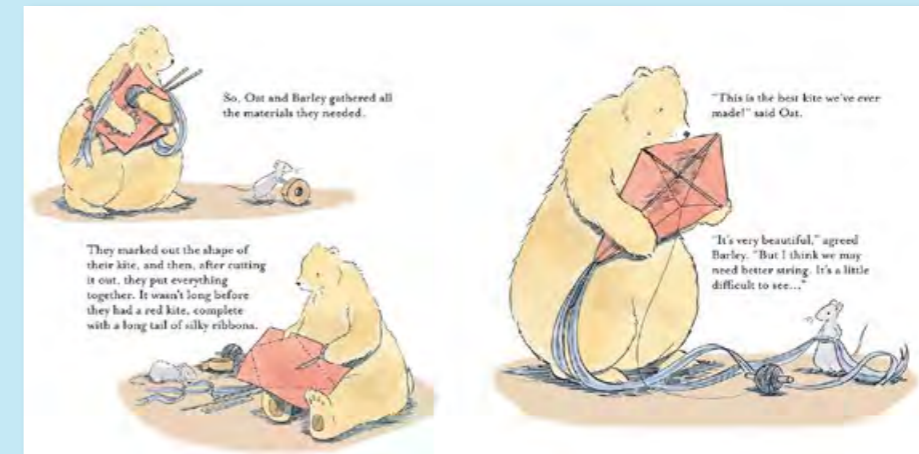
Christopher Michaels
Children's Picture Book
Hardcover | 40 pages | 978-1-76036-220-1
Trim Size: 10.0" H x 10.0" W
List Price: \$18.95
Publisher: Starfish Bay® Publishing

Genre: Adventure Fiction / Animal Story
Reading Level: Grade K-2
Interest Level: Grades PreK-3
Guided Reading Level: J
Lexile® Measure: 480L
Accelerated Reader® Level/Points: 2.4/0.5

Themes:

- Friendship and loyalty
- Listening to wise advice
- Consequences of impulsive actions
- Adventure and excitement
- Problem-solving and persistence
- Safety and caution
- Learning from mistakes
- Animal characters and companionship
- Weather and nature's power
- Humorous misadventures

Christopher Michaels is a British artist born and raised in Cambridge, UK. He graduated from Cambridge School of Art with a BA in Illustration and an MA in Children's Book Illustration. His work often reflects his fondness for all things gentle, quaint, and old-fashioned. He can often be found sketching away on any number of unfinished projects, pondering the nature of the world over a nice cup of tea and a good biscuit.



Sol Plays the World



Key Features:

- Helps children learn to deal with big emotions in creative, physically active ways.
- Features fun facts about instruments from all over the globe!
- Expressive and thoughtful illustrations capture the emotion and experiences of Sol and his music.

When Sol's feelings become too much, he turns to a range of international musical instruments to express himself.

There are times when Sol finds his emotions to be overwhelming, so he turns to a diverse collection of musical instruments to find peace. Through exploring global sounds, Sol learns to express and manage his feelings in a creative way, and he develops an inner connection to people and communities from around the world. This calming story, with unique thoughtful illustrations, demonstrates the importance music can have on our emotions and the positive effect it can have on our wellbeing.

Chelsey Reis is a writer and artist who lives between Regional Victoria and Far North Queensland. Chelsey previously worked for local government and community service organizations empowering children, youth, and community across disability advocacy, community arts, and place-based projects. She has since home educated her two children, following a philosophy that integrates permaculture, regenerative practice, creative exploration, and community participation. Her writing spans from narrative essays to children's picture books that explore and celebrate diversity, creativity, and connection to people and places.

Mirjam Siim was born and raised in Tallinn, Estonia. Since earning a degree from Tartu Art College, Estonia, Mirjam has worked as a freelance illustrator and artist. Working on a range of different projects, Mirjam has exhibited work throughout Europe and the US. She enjoys working in watercolor and is often inspired by moments from her own life – conversations had, books read, or memories shared. Mirjam currently lives in Porto, Portugal.

Chelsey Reis & Mirjam Siim
Children's Picture Book
Hardcover | 40 pages | 978-1-76036-223-2
Trim Size: 8.5" H x 10.3" W
List Price: \$18.95
Publisher: Starfish Bay® Publishing

Genre: Social-Emotional Learning / Multicultural
Reading Level: Grade 2-3
Interest Level: Grades K-4
Guided Reading Level: M
Lexile® Measure: 600L
Accelerated Reader® Level/Points: 3.2/0.5

Themes:

- Emotional regulation and expression
- Music as therapy and healing
- Cultural diversity and appreciation
- Coping with big feelings
- World instruments and traditions
- Managing frustration and anger
- Finding healthy outlets for emotions
- Global connection through music
- Self-soothing and mindfulness
- Hope and resilience



Top Dog School



Key Features:

- A rollicking rhyming story about a cat who can do it all!
- Jessie's strong character encourages resilience, bravery, and determination.
- Expressive cartoon-style animal characters carry this dramatic story to its inspiring climax.

Jan Ross & Lisa Griffin
Children's Picture Book
Hardcover | 32 pages | 978-1-76036-236-2
Trim Size: 8.5" H x 10.3" W
List Price: \$18.95
Publisher: Starfish Bay® Publishing

Jessie the cat knows he's strong enough to keep up at Top Dog School – but can he convince the dogs of that?

Jessie the cat wants to join Top Dog School. He knows he is smart enough and strong enough – he just needs to convince the dogs, too! Can Jessie work his way to the top, despite his feline flaws?

Expressive animal characters carry this story of triumphing through unfair adversity.

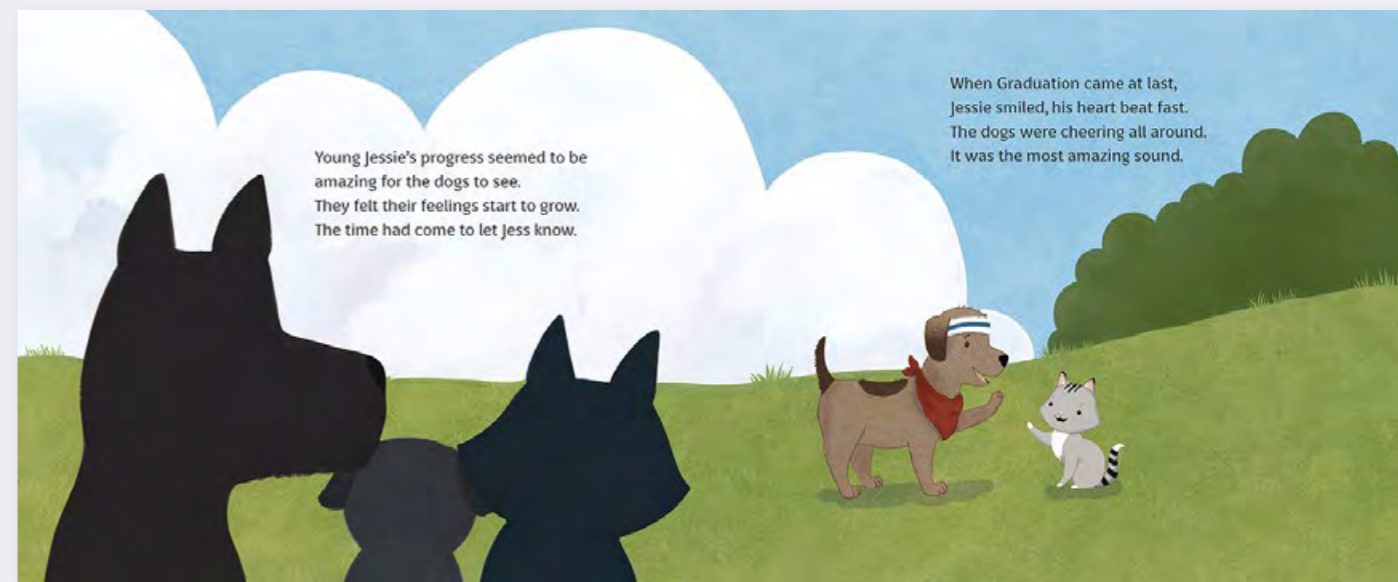
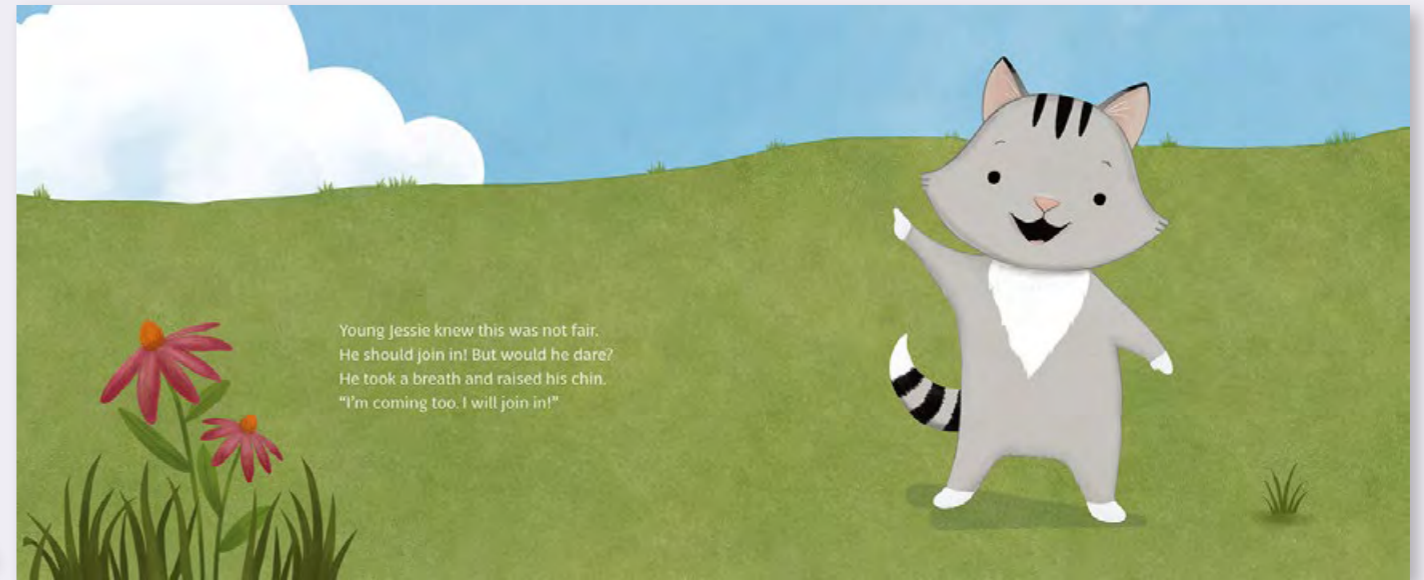
Genre: Realistic Fiction / Social Issue Story
Reading Level: Grade 1-2
Interest Level: Grades PreK-4
Guided Reading Level: J
Lexile® Measure: 470L
Accelerated Reader® Level/Points: 2.3/0.5

Themes:

- Inclusion and acceptance
- Breaking stereotypes and barriers
- Perseverance and determination
- Believing in yourself
- Challenging unfair rules
- Diversity and belonging
- Overcoming prejudice
- Friendship across differences
- Hard work and dedication
- Being true to yourself

Jan Ross was born and raised in Edgworth, England, and now resides in Adelaide, Australia. With an early love of reading, Jan still has many of her favorite childhood books, and she would read them to her children when they were growing up. Janice originally wrote Top Dog School for her own daughter many years ago, later deciding that it was something that should be enjoyed by as many children as possible. Several re-writes later, the dream of having it published has come true.

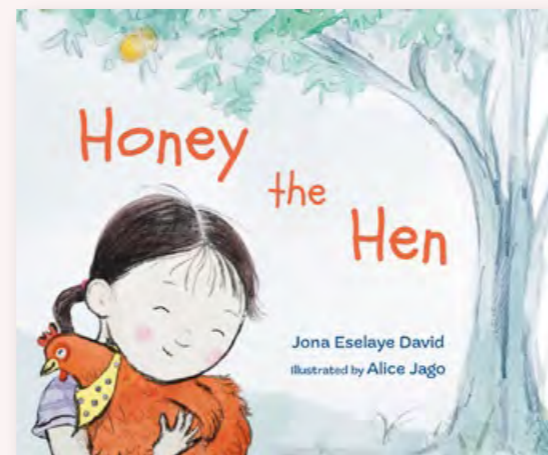
Lisa Griffin spends her days making art from a cozy studio in New Hampshire, USA. Her illustrations have been commissioned for greeting cards, magazines, and children's books. She believes in keeping the pencil moving, in the hopes of adding more happiness to the world, one illustration at a time. When not in the studio, Lisa enjoys yoga, photography, gardening, and being outside in the sunshine (preferably near a palm tree).



Honey the Hen

A young girl and her pet chicken share a heartwarming and unbreakable friendship, cherishing their time together.

Mikaela lives a wholesome life with her family. Devoted to the care of her animals, she forges a close bond with the adorable Honey, a hen who is always happy to see her. But when Honey gets sick, Mikaela's world is thrown into turmoil. An inspiring story about friendship, compassion, and overcoming grief that features delicate and contemplative illustrations. *Honey the Hen* will touch readers with its themes of loyalty, devotion, and dealing with loss.



Key Features:

- A tender and thoughtful story that teaches readers the importance of responsible pet ownership and friendship.
- Explores ways to deal with loss and how to cope in times of sadness.
- Delicate and expressive illustrations that perfectly complement the themes of friendship and loss.

Debut children's author **Jona Eselaye David** resides in Melbourne, Australia, with her family (including two dogs, nine hens, five ducks, and one rooster—but who's counting?!) Jona has a background in applied bioscience and currently works as a senior advisor within the higher education sector. *Honey the Hen* marks her first venture into the realm of children's writing and was inspired by her beloved daughter Mikaela and her treasured hen, Honey.

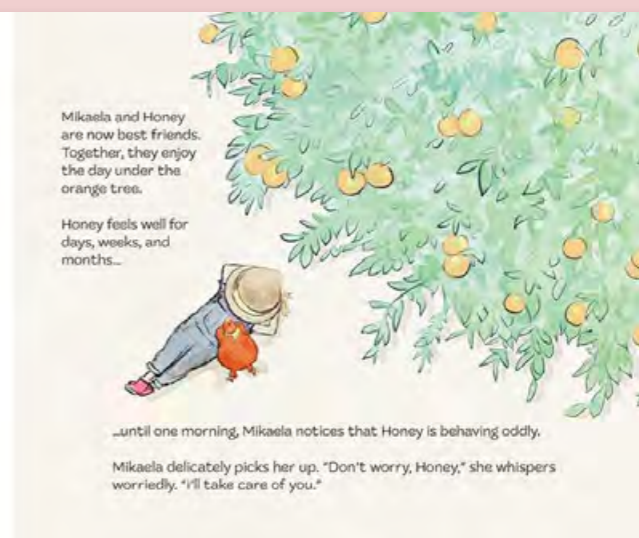
Alice Jago is a self-taught children's illustrator, who lives in Cornwall, England. She spent her childhood writing stories and drawing characters and rediscovered her love of picture books after having children of her own.

Themes:

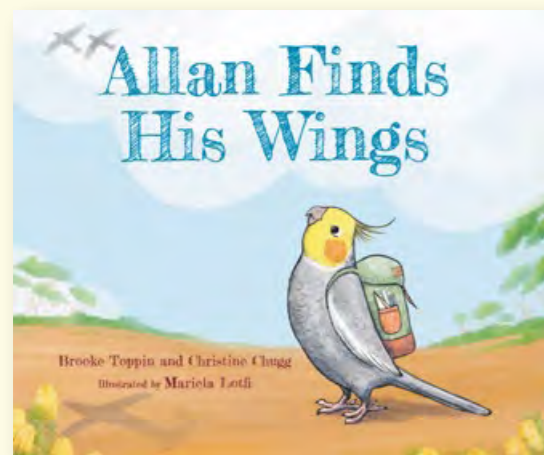
- Pet loss and grief
- Compassion and caring for animals
- Life cycles and mortality
- Veterinary care and responsibility
- Coping with difficult emotions
- Cherishing memories
- Love and friendship
- Family support during hard times
- Kindness and end-of-life decisions
- Continuing after loss

Jona Eselaye David & Alice Jago
Children's Picture Book
Hardcover | 32 pages | 978-1-76036-242-3
Trim Size: 8.5" H x 10.3" W
List Price: \$18.95
Publisher: Starfish Bay® Publishing

Genre: Realistic Fiction / Pet Loss & Grief
Reading Level: Grade 2-3
Interest Level: Grades K-4
Guided Reading Level: L
Lexile® Measure: 560L
Accelerated Reader® Level/Points: 2.7/0.5



Allan Finds His Wings



Key Features:

- A positive story that explores diversity and self-belief.
- Wonderfully written, this book demonstrates the importance of positive thinking, embracing your abilities, and overcoming obstacles.
- Rich, detailed, and emotive illustrations will draw readers into Allan's story.

Born unable to fly, Allan the cockatiel watches his friends soar and wonders what he can become when he finishes school.

Born with one wing larger than the other, Allan the cockatiel is unable to fly. Watching his friends in the sky, he worries about his future after he finishes school. But when a friendly pilot Mr. Doyle learns of Allan's troubles, he offers the chance of a lifetime and a way to overcome Allan's concerns. A story filled with hope and positivity, Allan's adventure explores themes of perseverance, self-belief, and achieving your goals no matter your ability, with emotive and detailed illustrations that all readers will relate to.

Themes:

- Physical disability and acceptance
- Finding alternative paths to dreams
- Perseverance despite limitations
- Kindness and mentorship
- Career discovery and purpose
- Everyone has unique abilities
- Friendship and inclusion
- Overcoming sadness and isolation
- Hope and determination
- Self-worth beyond physical ability

Brooke Toppin, Christine Chugg & Mariela Lotfi
Children's Picture Book

Hardcover | 32 pages | 978-1-76036-244-7

Trim Size: 8.5" H x 10.3" W

List Price: \$18.95

Publisher: Starfish Bay® Publishing

Genre: Inspirational Fiction / Disability Story

Reading Level: Grade 1-3

Interest Level: Grades K-4

Guided Reading Level: K

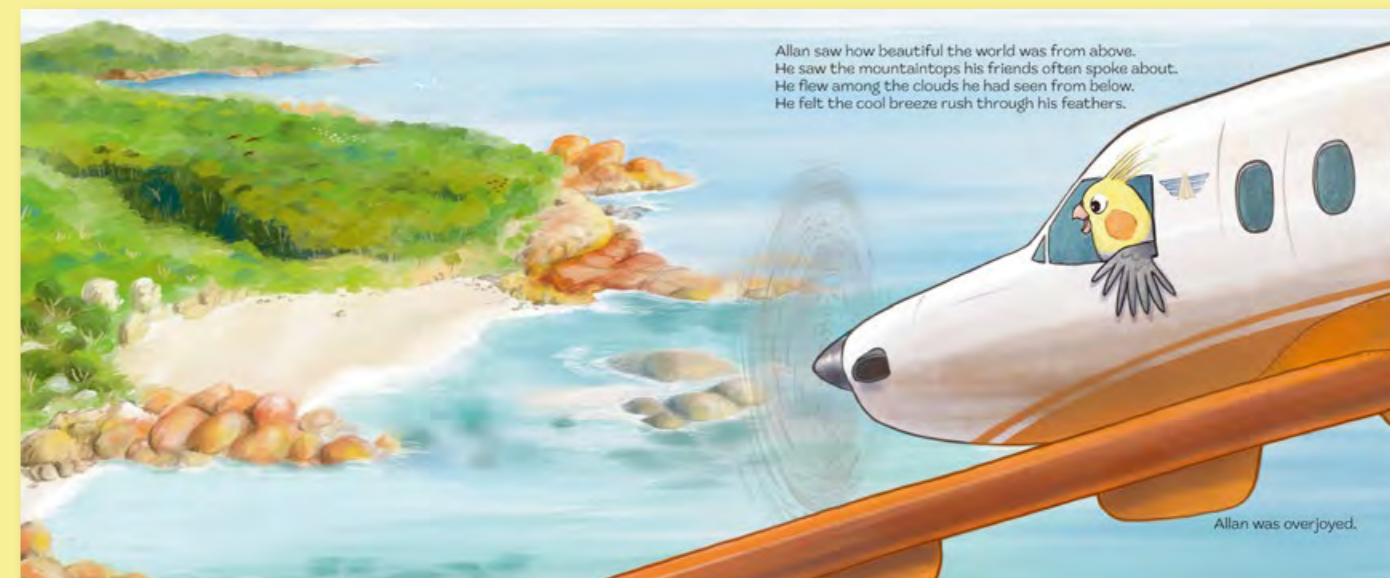
Lexile® Measure: 490L

Accelerated Reader® Level/Points: 2.5/0.5

Mariela Lotfi was born in Mendoza, Argentina, and has always been captivated by the enchanting illustrations found in books. After graduating from the Faculty of Visual Arts at the National University of Mendoza, Mariela became a freelance illustrator, expressing her love of animals, people, and nature through a variety of artistic techniques. Mariela now lives with her family in Switzerland.

Brooke Toppin is an early childhood teacher and became interested in writing stories while studying for her degree. She hopes to spark children's sense of wonder and connection to stories. Brooke loves walking in nature, gardening, and travelling overseas. She lives in Tasmania, Australia, with her husband, two daughters, and lovable labradoodle, Polly.

Christine Chugg adores animals, so it's only natural that they feature in her writing. She can often be found reading books about them and is amazed by their astonishing ways. She is also a maker with a creative mind and enjoys upcycling materials to make useful items and giving them a new life. She lives with her husband in Tasmania, Australia.



Vesper Jones and Marshmallow

Vesper Jones and her cat use a dream controller to banish Scary Things from their dreams.

Vesper Jones has grown tired of Scary Things entering her dreams. So, with the help of her trusty Dream Changer and brave cat, Marshmallow, Vesper decides it is time to take control. But when Scary Things enter her dreams again, Vesper becomes fearful and must use her imagination and courage to send them away. Can Vesper and Marshmallow outsmart the Scary Things and fill their dreams with fun and magic instead? This is an empowering story about confronting fears that features powerful and expressive illustrations.

Karen Hendriks & Francesca Corso
Children's Picture Book
Hardcover | 40 pages | 978-1-76036-245-4
Trim Size: 8.5" H x 10.3" W
List Price: \$18.95
Publisher: Starfish Bay® Publishing

Genre: Fantasy / Empowerment Story
Reading Level: Grade 1-2
Interest Level: Grades PreK-4
Guided Reading Level: J
Lexile® Measure: 480L
Accelerated Reader® Level/Points: 2.4/0.5

Karen Hendriks lives by the sea in Shell-harbour, Australia, where she snorkels with stingrays and turns into a story spy in coffee shops. Karen is curious and travels whenever she can. Her favorite places are in Europe, especially Greece, the Czech Republic, and Germany. She dreams of one day swimming with whale sharks and wishes plastic didn't exist because it's killing our oceans.

Francesca Corso is from Verona, Italy. A graduate of painting and pictorial decoration at the Art Institute in Verona, later graduating in illustration at Comics School in Padua, she also gained a master's degree in editorial illustration at Ars in Fabula. In 2019, she received the Quality Microeditory Award for Il Signor Erik and was selected by the Bologna Children's Book Fair as one of the twenty most promising children's illustrators in Italy.

Vesper Jones and Marshmallow

Karen Hendriks Illustrated by Francesca Corso



Key Features:

- An exciting, positive story, backed by research from Flinders University, that will help young readers overcome bedtime anxieties.
- An imaginative and empowering story that is filled with unique dream worlds.
- Expressive and atmospheric illustrations highlight the power we have to overcome bad dreams.

Themes:

- Overcoming nightmares and fears
- Taking control and empowerment
- Courage and bravery
- Power of imagination
- Problem-solving and persistence
- Self-confidence and agency
- Friendship and support
- Facing challenges
- Creative thinking
- Dreams and reality



Squeak!

A dream window opened, and Friendly Things floated in and swirled about! Vesper's room in a kaleidoscope of colours.

Some Friendly Things rode unicorns. Others played silly games.



Oh no!
Vesper Jones dream became all tangled and mixed up.
She let out a tiny cry.
Then everything disappeared in a puff of dream dust.
Creak!
Vesper Jones and Marshmallow trembled as...



"...and you're not invited!"
Click!
Thousands and thousands of fairy lights twinkled.
"Bright lights!" sobbed Scary Things. "Make it dark again!"
Click!

My Name Is Hugo Bear



Key Features:

- The perfect story for children adjusting to a new sibling, offering comfort and reassurance through Hugo's journey.
- Hugo Bear's expressive and humorous personality will charm readers and make him an unforgettable character.
- Playful illustrations that are filled with character, enhance the connection readers will have with Hugo Bear's journey.

Emma Counsell & Chiara Franceschetti
Children's Picture Book
Hardcover | 40 pages | 978-1-76036-285-0
Trim Size: 8.5" H x 10.3" W
List Price: \$18.95
Publisher: Starfish Bay® Publishing

Genre: Contemporary Fiction / Family Stories
/ New Sibling
Reading Level: Grade 1-2
Interest Level: Grades PreK-2
Guided Reading Level: K
Lexile® Measure: 490L
Accelerated Reader® Level/Points: 2.7/0.5

Themes:

- Adjusting to a new sibling
- Fear of being replaced/forgotten
- Finding new purpose and meaning
- Growing and adapting to change
- Self-worth and identity
- Love and belonging
- Resilience and transformation
- The enduring bond between child and beloved toy

Hugo Bear fears being forgotten—until he finds a new role in the family.

Hugo Bear is a teddy on a heartfelt journey to rekindle a connection with his owner, Ruby. Hugo always loves seeing Ruby, but when she returns home one day, she starts to ignore him. Feeling lost and wondering if Ruby has outgrown him, Hugo starts to think it might be time to leave home forever—until he realizes there is still a very important role for him, especially with a new baby on the way. Join Hugo Bear in this touching story about love, acceptance, and family bonds.

Emma Counsell is a graduate of The Australian Writers' Centre and is passionate about writing picture books that resonate with young readers. With a background in fine arts, her artistic vision enriches her storytelling. Based on the Gold Coast, Australia, she shares her home with her husband, two spirited children, and her father, all of whom provide her with endless inspiration (and occasional chaos) for her creative journey.

Chiara Franceschetti has always loved drawing. Originally a graduate of architecture, it was after having two children that she began her creative career. Inspired by the mountainous surroundings of her childhood, fairy tales, and travel, Chiara works digitally, often combining watercolors to form detailed and joyfully colored artwork. Chiara lives in South Tyrol, Italy, with her husband and two children.



Mary Had a Little Roo

A heartwarming twist on a classic rhyme, about a little girl, a kangaroo, and a shared bond.

Set in the Australian Outback in the late 1800s, this is a charming twist on a beloved nursery rhyme. When young Mary finds an orphaned kangaroo joey, she raises him with love and care. But as Lamb the roo grows, it becomes clear he belongs in the wild. With warmth and gentle humor, this beautifully illustrated story explores the balance between love and letting go. A celebration of friendship, nature, and the unique bond we share with animals, this story also offers a window into Australia's past and the importance of wildlife conservation.

Teagan Bouma is an Australian author who grew up in the idyllic countryside of Victoria, where her love for nature began. As a child, she was fascinated by insects and small creatures, often accidentally releasing them into her parents' home. These early adventures sparked a lifelong curiosity that Teagan now channels into her stories. When not writing, Teagan enjoys hiking through Australia's diverse landscapes with her husband and three sons and expressing her love of the natural world through painting.

Themes:

- Wildlife rescue and rehabilitation
- Letting go with love
- Animals belonging in the wild
- Growing up and independence
- Unconditional love and bonds
- Australian wildlife and culture
- Caring for orphaned animals
- Bittersweet goodbyes
- Finding where you belong
- Love that transcends distance



Key Features:

- A fresh, Aussie twist on a classic rhyme, filled with fun and heart.
- A gentle exploration of letting go, teaching children the importance of love, responsibility, and the importance of allowing wild animals to return to their natural environment.
- Sweet and colorful illustrations bring 1800s Outback Australia to life.

Teagan Bouma & Rose Skelton
Children's Picture Book
Hardcover | 32 pages | 978-1-76036-287-4
Trim Size: 8.5" H x 10.3" W
List Price: \$18.95
Publisher: Starfish Bay® Publishing

Genre: Realistic Fiction / Animal Story
Reading Level: Grade 1-2
Interest Level: Grades PreK-3
Guided Reading Level: K
Lexile® Measure: 530L
Accelerated Reader® Level/Points: 2.6/0.5

Rose Skelton is a passionate children's book illustrator living by the sea in Cornwall, UK, where she draws inspiration from the natural world around her. Infused with her love for animals and nature, Rose crafts enchanting illustrations on her iPad using digital brushwork, creating detailed, whimsical worlds.



Look Up, It Floats!



Key Features:

- Children will enjoy this playful introduction to physics and floating.
- Encourages curiosity by inspiring children to explore and observe their surroundings.
- The soft pastels and warm shades bring wonder to delicate and engaging illustrations.

Rita Lim & Alice Jago
Children's Picture Book
Hardcover | 32 pages | 978-1-76036-289-8
Trim Size: 8.5" H x 10.3" W
List Price: \$18.95
Publisher: Starfish Bay® Publishing

Genre: Educational Fiction / Science
Reading Level: Grade K-1
Interest Level: Grades PreK-2
Guided Reading Level: H
Lexile® Measure: 420L
Accelerated Reader® Level/Points: 2.1/0.5

Themes:

- Scientific observation and discovery
- Wonder and curiosity about nature
- Air and wind concepts
- Cause and effect
- Floating and flying objects
- Outdoor exploration
- Parent-child interaction
- Observing the world around us
- Simple physics concepts
- Encouraging questions and inquiry

A young girl observes her surroundings and discovers the many objects that float around her.

This book celebrates the innocent wonder of discovery as a young girl called Milly observes the world and objects that float. From clouds and birds to kites and bubbles, Milly learns how air lifts and carries them all. With rhythmic text and delightful illustrations, this story invites readers to look up and explore the beauty of the sky. The perfect story for all curious minds, with charming and gentle illustrations that bring an understanding of science.

Rita Lim is a scientist by background, and while working in the material analysis field can be challenging, her biggest challenge to date is raising her two energetic munchkins who have the most curious minds! And so, this book came about because teaching children and answering the 'what', 'why', and 'how' questions can be entertaining, and fun! Rita resides in Melbourne, Australia, with her children and wonderful husband, who will always be a kid at heart!

Alice Jago is a self-taught children's illustrator, who lives in Cornwall, England. She spent her childhood writing stories and drawing characters and rediscovered her love of picture books after having children of her own.



I Remember



Key Features:

- A heartwarming story great for cuddle time and bedtime.
- Encourages families to keep, explore, and treasure their own memory box items, memories, and bonds.
- Charming, watercolor-style illustrations that reflect the nostalgic innocence of the story.

Themes:

- Imagination vs. reality
- Childhood memories and perspective
- Parent-child relationships
- Growing up and changing
- Creative imagination
- Love and family bonds
- Nostalgia and remembering
- Different perspectives on same events
- Mother's unconditional love
- Treasuring special moments

Courtney Welker grew up in York, Western Australia's oldest inland town, the eldest daughter of a multi-generational farming family. She now lives in the Perth Hills with her husband and three young children. Courtney has degrees in law and arts (politics and Japanese) and a Master of International Relations. Courtney and her husband read to their children every day, love telling them stories (in which they and their pets often star), and relish adding to their memory boxes.

Lucy and her mother look through items in a memory box, but Lucy's memories differ from Mom's, except about feeling love.

When Lucy and her mother look through items in Lucy's memory box, such as her first shoes, photos, and a drawing, Lucy remembers things differently to Mom, except for one thing, the memory of feeling love for the first time. In this sweet picture book about memories, family connections, and love, children will discover the pleasure of keeping a memory box and relate to their own earliest memories and feelings of love.

Courtney Welker & Caroline Keys
Children's Picture Book
Hardcover | 32 pages | 978-1-76036-057-0
Trim Size: 8.5" H x 10.3" W
List Price: \$18.95
Publisher: Starfish Bay® Publishing

Genre: Realistic Fiction / Family Story
Reading Level: Grade 1-2
Interest Level: Grades PreK-3
Guided Reading Level: J
Lexile® Measure: 490L
Accelerated Reader® Level/Points: 2.4/0.5

From the time she could hold a crayon, **Caroline Keys** has only ever wanted to be an artist. She grew up in South Africa, where she cut her teeth as an illustrator working on educational books for children in rural African communities before moving to Australia. She feels incredibly lucky getting to spend every day creating art in her home studio just outside Melbourne, where she lives with her husband, three children, and a golden retriever.



That's not how I remember it.

Mom pulls a book from the box. "Your baby diary. I wrote about all your favorites and firsts."
"My favorite food was mashed banana?"



That's not how I remember it.

I rummage through the box. "A flower?"
Mom laughs. "You collected this on your first camping trip. We went to the forest."
"My first camping trip."



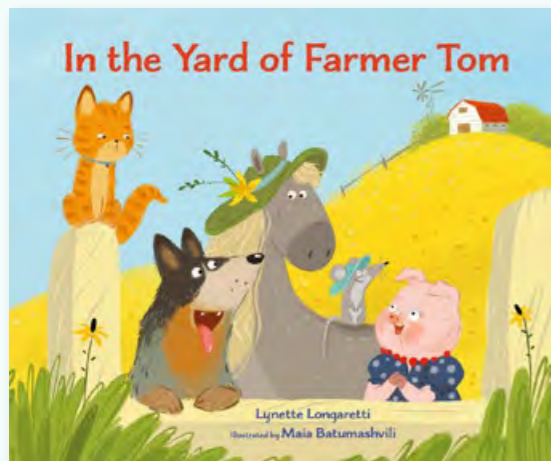
It's a photo of me, wrapped in a blanket, in my mom's arms.
Her nose is touching mine.
My first love.



That's exactly as I remember it.



In the Yard of Farmer Tom



Key Features:

- Gorgeous lyrical language—including assonance, alliteration, consonance, and lilting cadence—makes for a great read-aloud.
- An amusing, charming story about what can happen when one breaks the rules.
- Young readers will delight in the witty and vibrant depictions of the farmyard characters and their setting, complimenting this humorous and engaging story.

Lynette Longaretti & Maia Batumashvili
Children's Picture Book
Hardcover | 32 pages | 978-1-80036-060-0
Trim Size: 8.5" H x 10.3" W
List Price: \$18.95
Publisher: Starfish Bay® Publishing

Genre: Realistic Fiction / Animal Story
Reading Level: Grade 1-2
Interest Level: Grades PreK-3
Guided Reading Level: K
Lexile® Measure: 520L
Accelerated Reader® Level/Points: 2.6/0.5

Themes:

- Appreciating what you have
- Grass is always greener mentality
- Consequences of assumptions
- Home and belonging
- Farm animals and rural life
- Humor in everyday situations
- Learning from mistakes
- Contentment and gratitude
- Curiosity and exploration
- Finding comfort in familiar places

A cat, horse, pig, and mouse like the look of Farmer Tom's barn but find it is not quite the perfect home they think.

In the yard of Farmer Tom live Tiddles the cat, Harriet Rose the horse, Penelope Pig, and Theodora Mouse, and they have their eye on the brand-new barn on top of the hill. It is large, it is warm, it is grand, indeed. It seems like the perfect home. Thinking no one will notice, they sneak in and settle down for the night, only to be woken by a noisy and scary surprise the next morning—Farmer Tom's new tractor—in this amusing and beautifully lyrical tale of four characters who break the rules and get more than they bargained for. This wonderful story is complimented by vivid and humorous illustrations that perfectly capture the farmyard adventure.

Lynette Longaretti likes to take the road less travelled, as that is often where adventure and wonder unfold. She lives by the beach in Victoria, Australia, and one day would also love to have a small farm in the countryside. Lynette's writing is inspired by the capers and antics of her two children and their first dog, Tara, mischievous and all-knowing, who always kept an eye on things.

Maia Batumashvili was born in Tbilisi, Georgia, in 1978. From a young age, Maia has loved to draw and is inspired by the children's books and cartoons she grew up with. After graduating from two art institutes, Maia worked on an animation project before finally realizing her dream of illustrating children's books. When Maia is not creating imaginative worlds, she enjoys spending time with her three beautiful children and her dog, Tayo.

In the yard of Farmer Tom, there lived a cat, a horse, a pig, a little mouse, and a dog.
Up on the hill stood a brand-new barn.



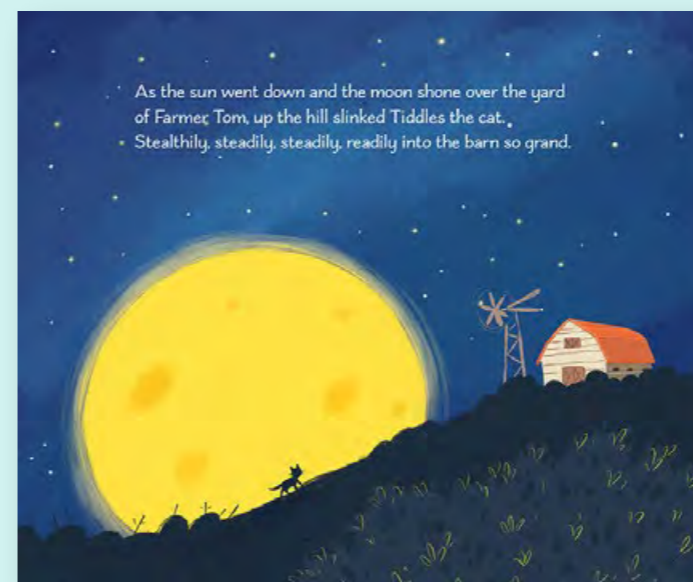
The barn was large. The barn was warm.
The barn was grand, indeed.
And each of the animals thought it their own to do with as they pleased.

Silence fell over the barn, and the moon shone bright. It was a perfect home, indeed, for the creatures of the yard.



As a new day dawned and the sunlight beamed over the yard of Farmer Tom, the whirring of an engine, coughing and spluttering, thundering and grinding, echoed loudly.

As the sun went down and the moon shone over the yard of Farmer Tom, up the hill slinked Tiddles the cat,
Stealthily, steadily, steadily, readily into the barn so grand.



Clambering up to the loft, turning and pulling, working the hay so soft and making a bed, snug and warm, in the barn so grand.
"No one will ever know."

I Want to Be a Gherkin!

A Gherkin's a Gherkin, and a Dill is a Dill, but that's not how Dilbert Dill feels.

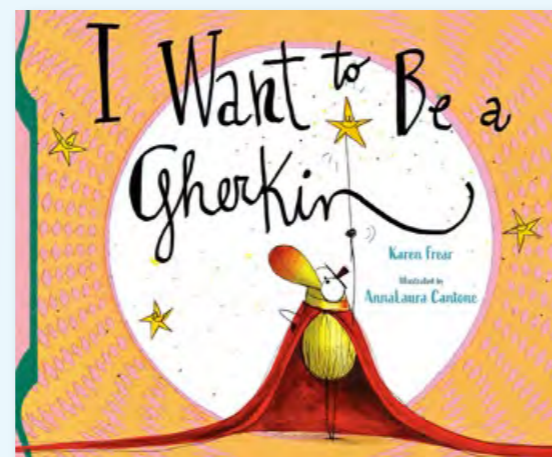
In the land of Pickleton, a Gherkin is a Gherkin, and a Dill is a Dill, and that's how it's always been. But Dilbert feels differently—he doesn't feel like a Dill! He'd prefer to learn magic tricks than lift bricks. But when he shares his feelings with the other pickles, they all brush him off.

Will Dilbert be able to show the pickles his true self? A beautiful story about acceptance and identity that features expressive, joyous artwork.

Karen Frear has always been a bookworm. To this day, she spends hours tucked up under a rug reading, allowing her imagination to travel to faraway worlds. Born in Australia, Karen has a bachelor's degree in media and a Master of Teaching. She is currently an elementary school teacher, and she loves reading stories and picture books to her students. Through her teaching and stories, Karen dreams of encouraging all children to embrace their uniqueness, individuality, and weirdness!

Themes:

- Gender identity and self-acceptance
- Being true to yourself
- Courage to be different
- Acceptance and understanding
- Breaking societal expectations
- Finding supportive friends
- Standing up for who you are
- Challenging traditional norms
- Happiness through authenticity
- Inclusion and celebration of diversity



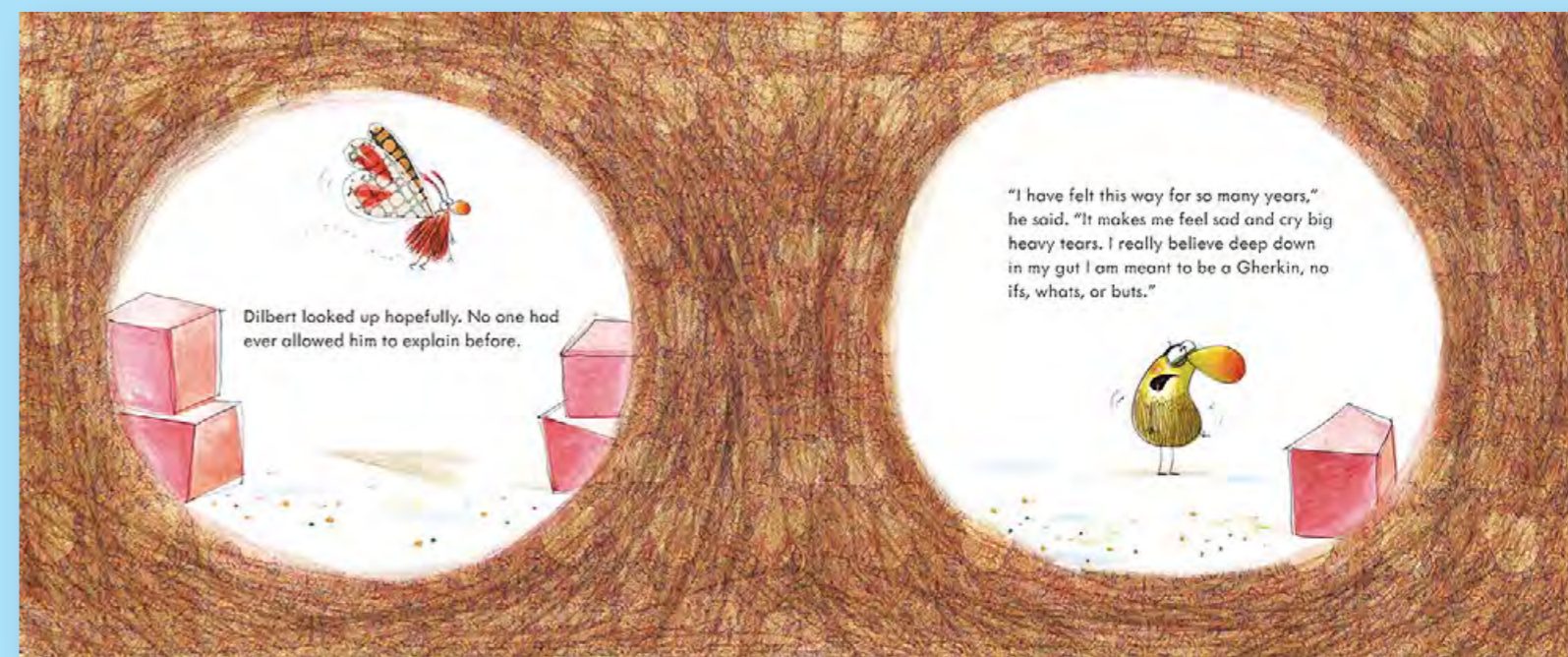
Key Features:

- A story about acceptance and finding yourself.
- This fun story about pickles is an easy-to-understand way of explaining gender identity to young children.
- Delightfully expressive artwork that brings joy and humor to this wonderful story.

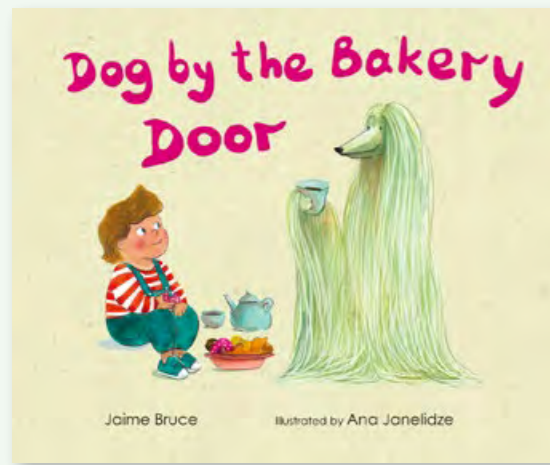
Karen Frear & AnnaLaura Cantone
Children's Picture Book
Hardcover | 32 pages | 978-1-80036-078-5
Trim Size: 8.5" H x 10.3" W
List Price: \$18.95
Publisher: Starfish Bay® Publishing

Genre: Fantasy / Social-Emotional Learning
Reading Level: Grade 2-3
Interest Level: Grades K-5
Guided Reading Level: L
Lexile® Measure: 550L
Accelerated Reader® Level/Points: 2.7/0.5

AnnaLaura Cantone is an illustrator from Alessandria, Italy. Since graduating from the European Institute of Design, Milan, Anna Laura has become a prolific and well-respected artist. She has won numerous awards and recognition for her artwork, including the 2003 Andersen Prize and had work selected at major book fairs. Anna Laura's work has been published internationally, gaining much praise. She has also worked within the film and TV industry and currently teaches illustration.



Dog by the Bakery Door



Key Features:

- Playful and amusing rhyme that encourages phonological skills in young readers.
- Children and families will enjoy revealing the unexpected things the dogs are doing in this charming tale.
- The colorful illustrations perfectly juxtapose everyday events with the hidden talents of these delightful animals.

Jaime Bruce & Ana Janelidze
Children's Picture Book
Hardcover | 32 pages | 978-1-80036-083-9
Trim Size: 8.5" H x 10.3" W
List Price: \$18.95
Publisher: Starfish Bay® Publishing

Genre: Fantasy / Imaginative Fiction
Reading Level: Grade 1-2
Interest Level: Grades PreK-3
Guided Reading Level: K
Lexile® Measure: 520L
Accelerated Reader® Level/Points: 2.5/0.5

Themes:

- Imagination vs. reality
- Child's unique perspective on the world
- Hidden talents and unexpected abilities
- Parent-child relationship and bonding
- Observing the world around us
- The magic in everyday moments
- Dogs and pets as companions
- Humor and whimsy in ordinary settings
- Seeing beyond appearances
- Wonder and curiosity in childhood

A child observes a variety of dogs displaying surprising talents outside a busy bakery.

On an ordinary morning, Rudie and his mother visit a bakery. As they sit outside and Mum enjoys a coffee, customers arrive with their dogs. As Rudie observes, each reveals an unexpected talent. From juggling, playing a ukelele, and even ordering a pastry, these dogs are full of surprises. This charming rhyming story features warm and playful artwork that reveals the extraordinary in every turn of the page.

Jaime Bruce studied Education at the University of Melbourne, before completing courses in early years arts education, painting, and play therapy. While living in London, she worked as a teacher and teaching assistant at a primary school and spent weekends wandering up the canal to Broadway Market. After almost a decade abroad, Jaime moved back to Melbourne and is now often spotted in the park with her toddler, eating a pastry, sipping a coffee, and watching the dogs run by.

Ana Janelidze is an early childhood education specialist and children's book illustrator living in Tbilisi, Georgia. With an MA in Children's literature and Illustration from Goldsmiths, University of London, she has illustrated several picture books. Ana uses traditional and mixed media techniques to create memorable characters and dramatic compositions that represent child empowerment and play with intertextuality and humor.



Rudie and his mama arrived at the bakery café.
There was nothing strange about it, just an ordinary day.

The sky was blue, the air was crisp, a beautiful spring day.
Bread, pastries, rolls, and cakes were fresh and on display.
Mama said, "First my coffee, and then we'll go and play."



A boy left his dog tied up to a tree,
to choose himself a cookie and get his dad a black tea.
Mama saw the dog sitting as still as can be,
but Rudie saw the dog play a ukelele.



Mama mused, "I have a feeling you think those dogs are clever..."

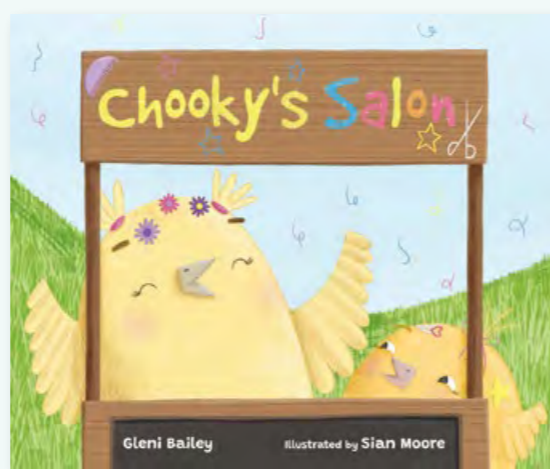
Chooky's Salon

Two sisters learn the importance of teamwork and fun when opening their own hair salon.

Disappointed that she can't go to the fair with her friends, Chooky decides to look on the bright side and enjoy time with her sister. Inspired by playing "hairstylists" together, the two set up a modelling show, with an entrance fee for other chickens to attend. The show is a great success, and Chooky and Summer make lots of money! With the money they have, the pair decide to set up a salon to make everyone's feathers beautiful. A humorous story about teamwork, creativity, and responsibility, with delightfully engaging illustrations.

Gleni Bailey began to write children's stories due to her love of nature and desire to teach from learned experiences. Based at her home farm in Western Australia, Gleni finds motivation from the myriad characters surrounding her. While the antics of chickens, cats, sheep, other farm animals, and wildlife amuse her, they also inspire, providing the context for her to subtly impart many life lessons while also entertaining readers.

Sian Moore is a freelance illustrator from Wales. She graduated in 2014 after four years of studying illustration and now works from home with "help" from her two young daughters. She works digitally to create her illustrations and over the years has worked with a variety of children's magazines, recently stepping into the world of publishing and realizing her dream of illustrating picture books.



Key Features:

- A delightful rhyming story that shows the importance of teamwork and responsibility.
- Encourages children to use imaginative play co-operatively to further their understanding and goals.
- Humorous and colorful illustrations that are full of fun and character.

Gleni Bailey & Sian Moore
Children's Picture Book
Hardcover | 32 pages | 978-1-80036-085-3
Trim Size: 8.5" H x 10.3" W
List Price: \$18.95
Publisher: Starfish Bay® Publishing

Genre: Realistic Fiction / Entrepreneurship Story
Reading Level: Grade 1-2
Interest Level: Grades PreK-3
Guided Reading Level: K
Lexile® Measure: 510L
Accelerated Reader® Level/Points: 2.6/0.5

Themes:

- Creativity and entrepreneurship
- Making the best of disappointment
- Economic inequality and family finances
- Sister bonding and teamwork
- Turning play into business
- Helping family and community
- Resourcefulness and innovation
- Gratitude and appreciating what you have
- Hard work and determination
- Finding success in unexpected ways



Not Even a SNAP!



Key Features:

- A wonderfully funny story that demonstrates the importance of resilience and the power of music.
- Encourages children to discover and try different musical instruments, allowing them to express themselves in a fun and exciting way.
- Delightful illustrations that are full of character, humor, and warmth.

Courtney Lawrence is an Australian writer and musician. She has a double degree in English, Applied Linguistics, History, and Italian, as well as a passion for the wonderful silliness of words. Her short stories, poetry, and nonfiction words have been published in her alma mater magazine, where she later worked as Editor. She now works as a bookseller in North West Victoria.

Themes:

- Finding your talent and passion
- Perseverance through failure
- Trial and error learning
- Musical instruments and education
- Family support and encouragement
- Not giving up on dreams
- Discovering what suits you best
- Practice and dedication
- Overcoming physical challenges
- Everyone has their own special gift

Inspired by musicians, young Zi wants to learn an instrument—but things don't go as planned.

Inspired by the sound of musicians at a local street festival, young Zi becomes determined to learn an instrument. With support from his family and music teachers, Zi tries out a guitar, violin, and much more. But each one ends in disaster—a SNAP or a CRACK! Just as Zi is ready to give up, a moment of rhythmic tapping gives him an idea and the discovery of an unexpected talent. *Zi Finds His Beat* is a wonderfully energetic and funny story about resilience and self-discovery, with illustrations that capture the beat of this wonderful tale!

Courtney Lawrence & Antonio Ordonez
Children's Picture Book
Hardcover | 40 pages | 978-1-80036-091-4
Trim Size: 8.5" H x 10.3" W
List Price: \$18.95
Publisher: Starfish Bay® Publishing

Genre: Realistic Fiction / Music / Social-Emotional Learning
Reading Level: Grade 2-3
Interest Level: Grades K-4
Guided Reading Level: L
Lexile® Measure: 560L
Accelerated Reader® Level/Points: 2.7/0.5

Antonio Ordonez (known as AtOLOnia) was born in Madrid, Spain. Inspired by the birth of his first child, Antonio decided to change career and move into the world of children's illustration. His work is distinguished by the cute, friendly, and expressive characters he creates. He loves to combine digital drawing with watercolor and give free rein to his imagination.



Wonder Wings



Murtle the Turtle is trapped in plastic, but Zelda's magic wings have stopped working. Can she recharge them in time?

Poppy and Enviro Joe work together with Zelda the magic ladybug to save the environment and the world. When Zelda's wings begin to glow, and Poppy and Enviro Joe follow her to find Murtle the Turtle trapped in plastic and struggling to breathe. But at the worst possible time, Zelda's magic fails, and she's left struggling to breathe...

Will they be able to save Murtle in time?

Dynamic digital artwork carries the reader through this environmental adventure.

Nina Carroll, Helen Bennet & Masha Shevchenko
Children's Picture Book

Hardcover | 32 pages | 978-1-76036-230-0

Trim Size: 8.5" H x 10.3" W

List Price: \$18.95

Publisher: Starfish Bay® Publishing

Genre: Fantasy / Environmental Story

Reading Level: Grade 1-2

Interest Level: Grades PreK-4

Guided Reading Level: J

Lexile® Measure: 490L

Accelerated Reader® Level/Points: 2.5/0.5

Themes:

- Environmental responsibility
- Pollution and littering consequences
- Helping animals in distress
- Teamwork and cooperation
- Magic and wonder
- Taking action to solve problems
- Learning from mistakes
- Redemption and forgiveness
- Protecting nature

Masha Shevchenko is from Tarashcha, Ukraine. After studying Illustration at the National Technical University in Kyiv, she worked for a graphic design studio before becoming a freelance illustrator. Inspired by nature, Masha uses a clear and graphic style, with a soft, natural touch while using real-world textures and details.

Key Features:

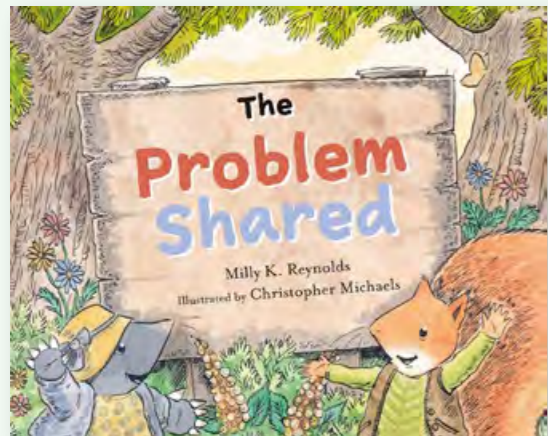
- **STEM Learning Through Story:** Introduce young readers to environmental science and biology as they learn how plastic impacts marine life and how ladybugs find energy in nature.
- Teach children the effects of littering by showing them the real-life consequences, and demonstrate that they have the power to do something about it.
- A familiar digital style of illustration captures the dynamic pacing of the story, carrying readers quickly through this exciting environmental adventure.

Helen Bennet's adult life has been filled with adventure, from exploring the garden for fairies and lady beetles, to embarking on pirate escapades when her boys were young. She also loves diving, surfing, and hiking. A high school English teacher on the Gold Coast, Australia, Helen cherishes time with family and friends and fondly remembers her beloved labradoodle, Molly.

Nina Carroll has always loved writing. Originally working as a print journalist, she swapped careers to become a high school English teacher. Nina lives on the sunny Gold Coast, Australia and loves the fun and adventure that comes with being a mother of three young boys. She also loves peanut butter, coffee and her high school sweetheart.



The Problem Shared



Key Features:

- A delightful adventure that proves that teamwork and friendships can overcome any problem.
- Wonderfully engaging characters bring heart and joy to this engaging story.
- Beautiful traditional illustrations capture the warmth, fun, and joy of this tender tale.

Themes:

- Helping others in need
- Creative problem-solving
- Kindness and compassion
- Cooperation and teamwork
- Family values and traditions
- Selflessness and sacrifice
- Community support
- Perseverance and hard work
- Friendship and loyalty

Milly K Reynolds loves anything creative. Since completing a degree in creative writing, Milly moved into Arts Event management before resuming the path of writing. She has organized street festivals, art and sculpture exhibitions and setup galleries. Her life highlights include climbing Machu Picchu, travelling through Mongolia and her unwavering love of reading. Originally from New Zealand, Milly now lives on the Gold Coast in Australia with her kitesurfing husband and two extraordinary children.

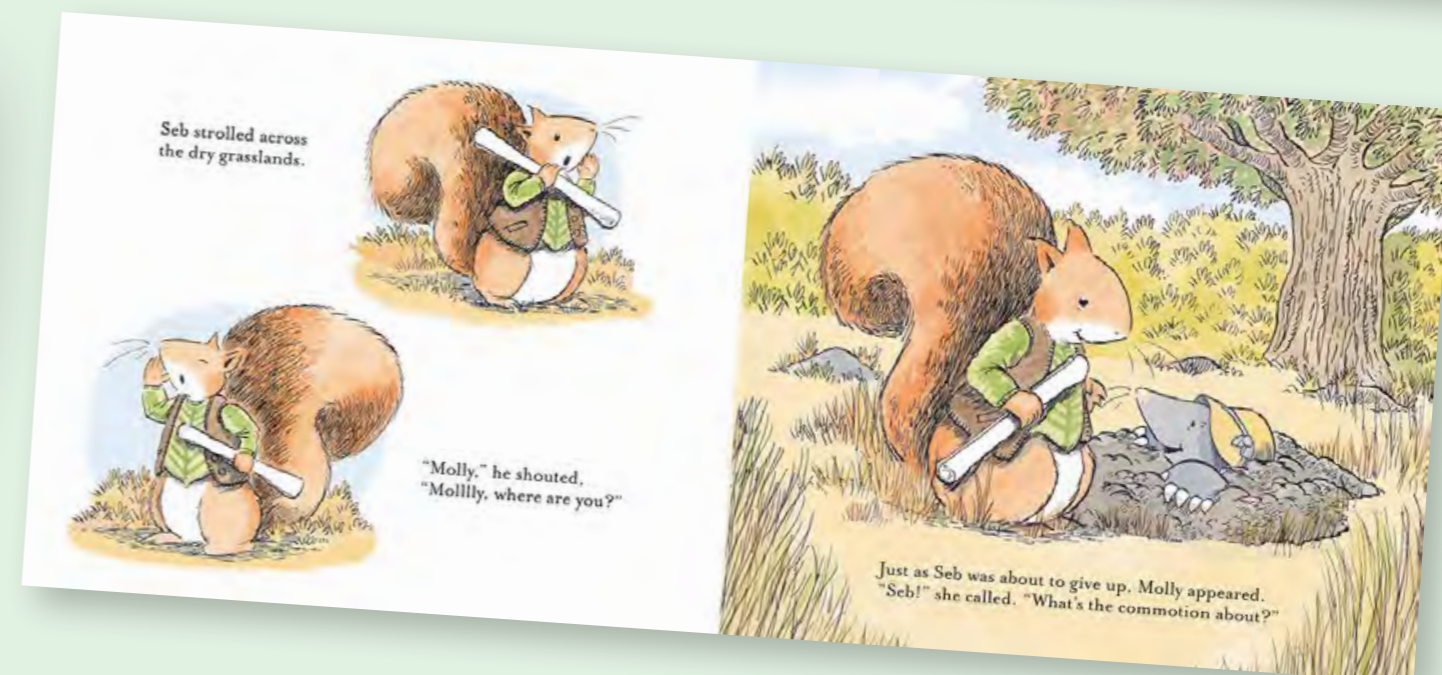
A brave squirrel uses teamwork and some bright ideas to solve a young girl's problem.

Sebastian, a noble squirrel from the Redfoot clan, is on his way to a huge family feast when he encounters Olive, a girl in desperate need. Her farm is parched, her bucket leaks, and her future looks bleak. Torn between his plans and his kind heart, Seb thinks of ways to help Olive and enlists the help of a clever friend to solve Olive's problem. *The Problem Shared* is a heartwarming tale of friendship and teamwork. With beautiful and engaging traditional artwork, this story is sure to delight and engage all readers.

Milly K. Reynolds & Christopher Michaels
Children's Picture Book
Hardcover | 40 pages | 978-1-76036-262-1
Trim Size: 8.5" H x 10.3" W
List Price: \$18.95
Publisher: Starfish Bay® Publishing

Genre: Realistic Fiction / Moral Tale
Reading Level: Grade 2-3
Interest Level: Grades K-4
Guided Reading Level: L
Lexile® Measure: 540L
Accelerated Reader® Level/Points: 2.8/0.5

Christopher Michaels is a British artist born and raised in Cambridge, UK. He graduated from Cambridge School of Art with a BA in Illustration and an MA in Children's Book Illustration. His work often reflects his fondness for all things gentle, quaint and old-fashioned. He can often be found sketching away on any number of unfinished projects, pondering the nature of the world over a nice cup of tea and a good biscuit. You can find out more about him at www.cgmmichaels.com



Away With That Trials Bike

A determined boy searches for the perfect place to ride his beloved trials bike.

Declan adores his trials bike—it's his pride and joy! He rides it everywhere, but each time he does, people cry, "Away with that trials bike!" Whether it's a park, dance hall, or beach, Declan just can't find a place to ride. When Declan and his dad finally find the perfect place to ride—the steep dirt tracks of a mountainside—he finally feels what it is to be the world's greatest rider! *Away With That Trials Bike* is a touching story about finding where you truly belong that features joyous and playful illustrations.

Denica Bowden is a children's author from Weipa, a small, remote town in Far North Queensland, Australia. She obtained her dual degree in Applied Science and Education at the Queensland University of Technology but gave up her teaching career to become an electrician, though some would say she never stopped working with children. She was inspired to write after becoming a mother and found inspiration in her husband and son's keen interest in motorbikes.

Laura Wood is a freelance illustrator specializing in junior fiction and picture books. Originally from Treviglio, in the north of Italy, she studied illustration in the wonderful city of Melbourne, Australia, where she kicked off her illustration career in 2012. After a few years seeking adventure and traveling the world, she moved to Milan, Italy, where she now lives.



Key Features:

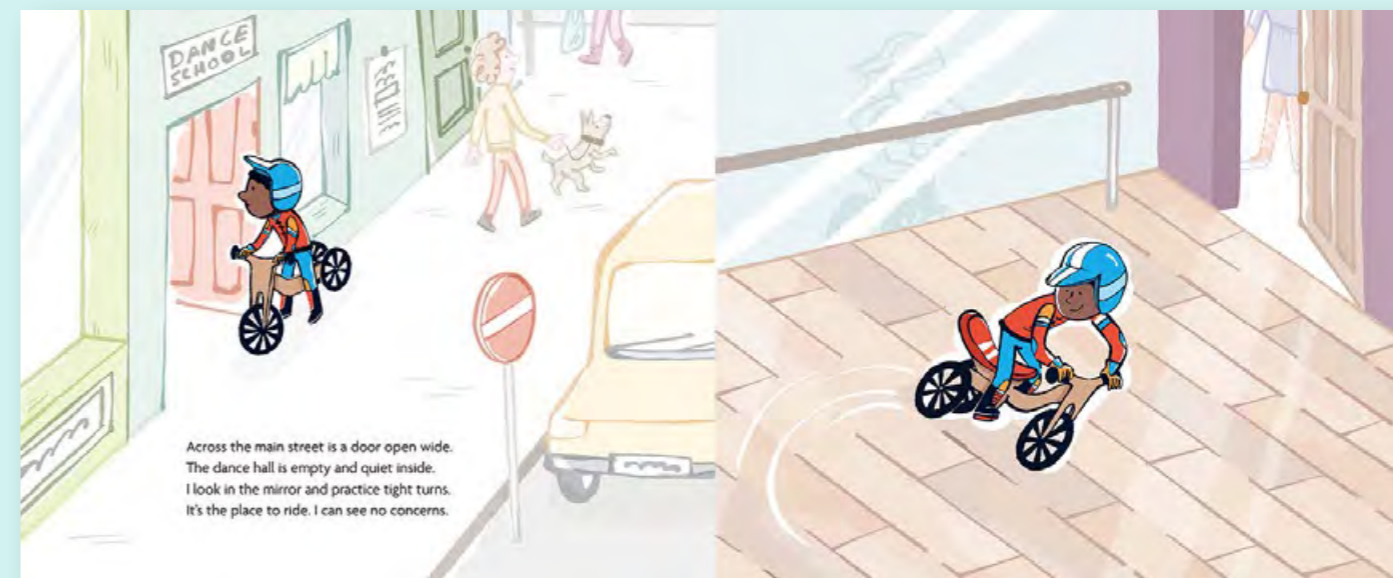
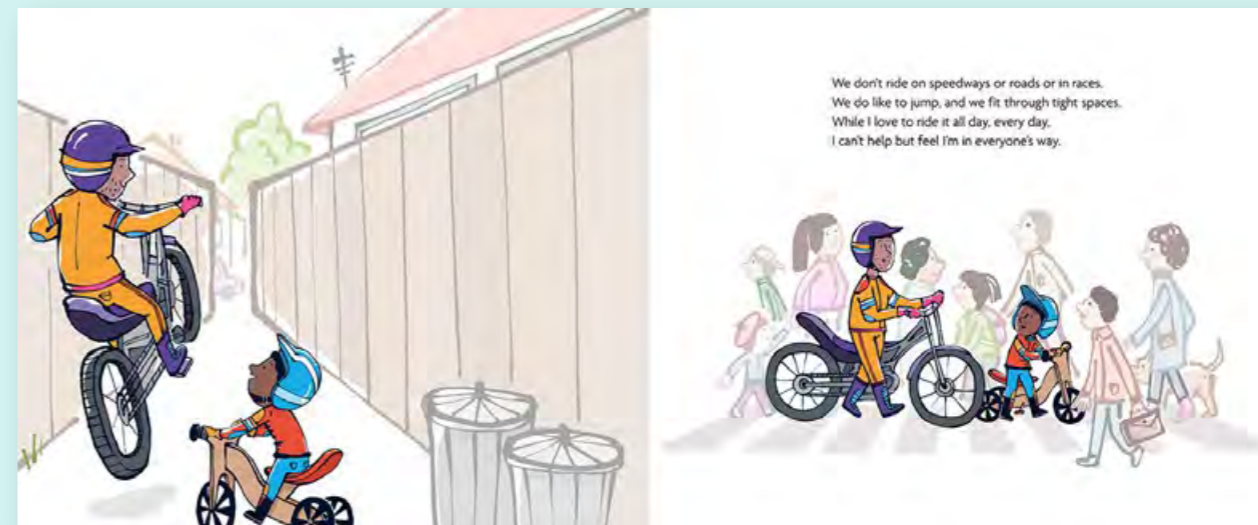
- A joyous story about self-discovery.
- Themes of resilience and perseverance—perfect for young adventurers.
- Highly energetic and engaging illustrations that showcase the fun and warmth of this story.

Denica Bowden & Laura Wood
Children's Picture Book
Hardcover | 40 pages | 978-1-76036-275-1
Trim Size: 8.5" H x 10.3" W
List Price: \$18.95
Publisher: Starfish Bay® Publishing

Genre: Realistic Fiction / Sports / Social-Emotional Learning
Reading Level: Grade 2-3
Interest Level: Grades K-4
Guided Reading Level: L
Lexile® Measure: 570L
Accelerated Reader® Level/Points: 2.8/0.5

Themes:

- Finding where you belong
- Acceptance and inclusion
- Perseverance through rejection
- Following your passion
- Parent-child bonding
- Being different and misunderstood
- Finding the right environment
- Celebrating unique interests
- Not giving up on what you love
- Advocacy and representation



Magpies Four



Key Features:

- A funny and chaotic story that will have children laughing out loud!
- Dynamic rhyme that encourages read-aloud fun and phonetic knowledge.
- Vibrant and lively illustrations that capture the mayhem of this playful tale.

Gleni Bailey & Garin Adi S.
Children's Picture Book
Hardcover | 32 pages | 978-1-76036-279-9
Trim Size: 8.5" H x 10.3" W
List Price: \$18.95
Publisher: Starfish Bay® Publishing

Genre: Fantasy / Humor
Reading Level: Grade 1-2
Interest Level: Grades PreK-3
Guided Reading Level: K
Lexile® Measure: 520L
Accelerated Reader® Level/Points: 2.6/0.5

Themes:

- Chaos and mayhem
- Patience and tolerance
- Sibling relationships
- Unexpected visitors
- Problem-solving under pressure
- Humor in difficult situations
- Setting boundaries
- Trying to help despite challenges
- Escalating comedy
- Just when you think it's over

A quiet day becomes chaotic when a mischief of magpies swoops into action.

Magpies Four is a dynamic and engaging story about the chaos caused when a mischief of magpies swoops into Rowdy and Margy's house. As the pair tries to teach the squawking quartet to cook, they quickly learn that these avian critters are messy chefs—and cleaning up is even more eventful! After all the mayhem caused, the two children have had enough, but then they hear a loud thumping outside, which can only mean more trouble... An energetic, funny, and engaging rhyming story—featuring vibrant and mischievous illustrations—that will delight all readers!

Gleni Bailey began to write children's stories due to her love of nature and desire to teach from learned experiences. Based at her home farm in Western Australia, Gleni's motivation comes from the myriad of characters surrounding her. While the antics of chickens, cats, sheep, other farm animals, and wildlife amuse her, they also inspire, providing the context for her to subtly impart many life lessons while also entertaining readers.

Garin Adi S. is an Indonesian illustrator who specializes in creating charming childlike illustrations. With a portfolio brimming with delightful characters and vibrant worlds, Garin has developed his distinctive style by working on a variety of different picture book projects. His talent lies in capturing the innocence and wonder of childhood, bringing stories to life with their playful and captivating illustrations.



The Baron of The Bay

When an entire neighborhood is fearful of a pesky magpie, a young boy is determined to show them that there is more to this native bird than what they see.

Everyone is afraid of the Baron of the Bay—except Reuben.

Reuben believes the magpie, who swoops passers-by to protect his family, is just misunderstood. But that doesn't matter to the neighbors, who are determined to remove the bird from his home and family. This story about an iconic native Australian bird, with bold and vibrant illustrations, will encourage readers to have understanding and compassion for animals.

Growing up in the heart of Western Sydney, **Corrine Ranieri** always dreamt of living life by the beach. As a child, she immersed herself in recreating the imaginary worlds that she read about in books, worlds filled with fairies and animals that wore bow ties and top hats. Corrine wanted to dedicate her life to teaching children to read so she could share this joy. After being a primary school teacher for thirteen years, and now a mother to three small children, she has found herself creating stories inspired by her children's imaginations and personalities.

Lucia Mongioj was born in Novara, Italy. Passionate about art, Lucia specialized in Illustration and Advertising at Istituto Europeo di Design, Milan and has participated in illustration workshops with many renowned artists. Lucia won best advertising campaign in Finish Layout organised by Incentive Gift, and First Prize in a nationwide competition organised by Contè. She currently teaches Illustration at the Academy of Fine Arts Acme in Novara.



Key Features:

- Encourages understanding of and compassion for animals
- Teaches children about a well-known and iconic Australian bird species
- The bold and vibrant illustrations bring life to this charming story.

Corrine Ranieri & Lucia Mongioj
Children's Picture Book
Hardcover | 32 pages | 978-1-80036-052-5
Trim Size: 8.5" H x 10.3" W
List Price: \$18.95
Publisher: Starfish Bay® Publishing

Genre: Realistic Fiction / Animal Story
Reading Level: Grade 2-3
Interest Level: Grades K-4
Guided Reading Level: M
Lexile® Measure: 540L
Accelerated Reader® Level/Points: 2.9/0.5

Themes:

- Understanding and empathy for wildlife
- Challenging perceptions and misconceptions
- Protective parental behavior in nature
- Standing up for what's right
- Human-wildlife coexistence
- Appreciating native birds and animals
- Bravery and heroism
- Community attitudes and change
- Respect for natural habitats
- Unexpected acts of protection

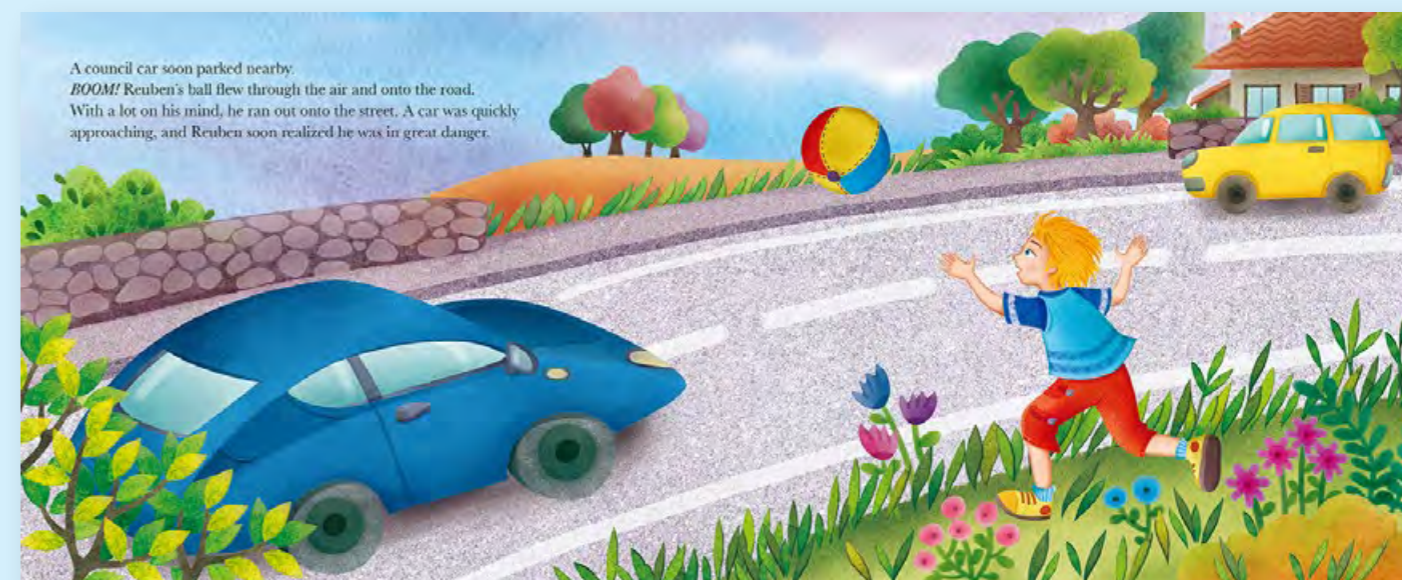


In the front yard, way up high in a tree,
the most regal of magpies was on the hunt for some breakfast.

The neighbourhood named him the Baron,
as he was daring, protective, and sneaky.
The Baron was feared by almost everyone, except Reuben.

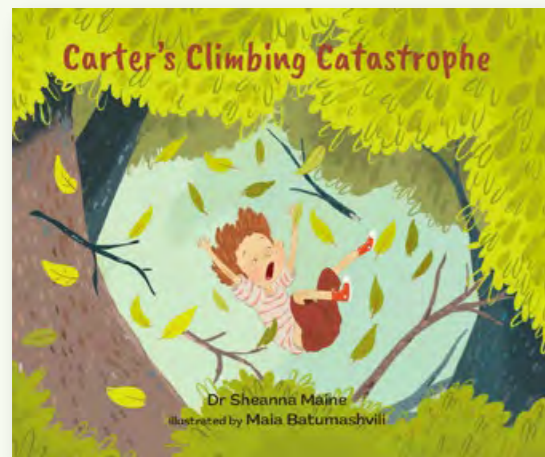


One evening, when Reuben was supposed to be asleep, he overheard his parents talking about their neighbours.
"Well, I did hear they're going to contact the council to have the magpies removed," said Dad.
"As beautiful as the birds are, I can understand why," said Mum.
Reuben leapt from his bed and ran down the hall. "You can't let this happen!" he pleaded. "This is the birds' home, and they have never swooped us once!"
"Try not to worry, sweetheart," said Mum. "Now off to bed you go!"



A council car soon parked nearby.
BOOM! Reuben's ball flew through the air and onto the road.
With a lot on his mind, he ran out onto the street. A car was quickly approaching, and Reuben soon realized he was in great danger.

Carter's Climbing Catastrophe



Key Features:

- A humorous take on a boy who's love for climbing lands him with a broken arm.
- Demystify the process for treating a broken arm in case of unfortunate accidents.
- Humorous illustrations signal events strongly for early readers so all readers will follow the joke regardless of ability.

Dr Sheanna Maine & Maia Batumashvili
Children's Picture Book
Hardcover | 40 pages | 978-1-80036-080-8
Trim Size: 8.3" H x 10.0" W
List Price: \$18.95
Publisher: Starfish Bay® Publishing

Genre: Realistic Fiction / Medical Story
Reading Level: Grade 2-3
Interest Level: Grades K-4
Guided Reading Level: K
Lexile® Measure: 540L
Accelerated Reader® Level/Points: 2.6/0.5

Themes:

- Childhood injuries and recovery
- Medical procedures and hospitals
- Consequences of risky behavior
- Patience during healing process
- Bravery and resilience
- Parent-child relationships
- Learning from mistakes
- Coping with limitations
- Humor in difficult situations
- Growth through challenges

When Carter's climbing lands him in a cast, he finds the consequences aren't nearly as fun.

Carter loves to climb and he can be often found somewhere high. Until one day while up a tree... crack! Carter comes crashing to the ground and breaks his arm! He lands in a cast that itches, stinks, and ruins all his fun. And what's that you want to use to take it off...?

Carter's consequences are uproariously illustrated with characters that will have kids in stitches.

Dr Sheanna Maine is an Australian Pediatric Orthopedic surgeon who, until the birth of her son, could not recall reading anything other than anatomy textbooks and orthopedic journal articles. While she has written numerous research papers and a couple of book chapters on knees, this is her first foray into the world of the child, a world she now appreciates and cherishes as much as her son loves pretending to be Spider-Man. Sheanna currently lives in Brisbane, Queensland.

Maia Batumashvili was born in Tbilisi, Georgia in 1978. Since a young age, Maia has loved to draw and is inspired by the children's books and cartoons she grew up with. After graduating from two art institutes, Maia worked on an animation project before finally realising her dream of illustrating children's books.



Carter Ashton Beesley was a boy who loved to climb. His mother found him out one day atop the washing line.



He climbed up chairs and fences just to get a better view of Mrs. Schmeirer's funny squawking crested cockatoo.



He was just about to see the train when he heard a big, loud



Ted's Monstrous Secret

A turtle with a unique quality decides to show kindness to others who feel different.

Ted is a turtle with a perfectly flat shell, so he wears a backpack and vest to fit in. But that doesn't stop others from teasing him. Rather than dwell on his sadness, Ted decides to help other animals who feel different, leaving them special notes as encouragement. From a lonely bat to a brightly colored lizard, Ted's kindness spreads through the forest. But when an accident leaves him stuck on his back, he discovers the kindness he has given will return to him in a most unexpected way. A beautifully illustrated and heartwarming tale about self-acceptance and empathy.

Karyn Miller is a New Zealand born author who lives in Queensland, Australia. After gaining a Diploma in Creative Writing with distinctions, Karyn found her true calling and passion in life - to craft heartfelt, thought-provoking picture books that will instil curiosity and a love of reading into children all around the world. With several years of experience working with young children as a Teacher Aide, Karyn aims to encourage children who live in a world full of judgement, to be unapologetically themselves.

Themes:

- Self-acceptance and embracing differences
- Kindness and helping others
- Overcoming bullying and teasing
- Finding your authentic self
- The power of positive affirmations
- Being true to yourself
- Celebrating uniqueness and diversity
- Acts of kindness come back
- Inner beauty and character
- Building self-confidence



Key Features:

- STEM Learning Through Story: Introduces the concept of changing seasons and the shifting patterns of daylight.
- This heartwarming tale of self-acceptance will encourage children to embrace their unique qualities and find confidence in who they are.
- Engaging illustrations that convey the warmth and character of this wonderful story.

Karyn Miller & Mariela Lotfi
Children's Picture Book
Hardcover | 32 pages | 978-1-80036-104-1
Trim Size: 8.5" H x 10.3" W
List Price: \$18.95
Publisher: Starfish Bay® Publishing

Genre: Social-Emotional Learning / Animal Story
Reading Level: Grade 2-3
Interest Level: Grades K-4
Guided Reading Level: L
Lexile® Measure: 530L
Accelerated Reader® Level/Points: 2.8/0.5

Mariela Lotfi was born in Mendoza, Argentina, and has always been captivated by the enchanting illustrations found in books. After graduating from the Faculty of Visual Arts at the National University of Mendoza, Mariela became a freelance illustrator, expressing her love of animals, people, and nature through a variety of artistic techniques. Mariela now lives with her family in Switzerland.



Mudlarking



Key Features:

- Encourages a fun, ecologically-positive activity and brings awareness of environmental challenges.
- A story of siblings coming together despite their different perspectives.
- Flowing illustrations fully capture the spirit of adventure the story creates.

Themes:

- Environmental stewardship and conservation
- Repurposing and upcycling waste
- Sibling relationships and understanding
- Patience and taking time
- Finding value in overlooked things
- Making a difference through small actions
- Creative problem-solving
- Persistence and dedication
- Appreciating different perspectives
- Teamwork and cooperation

Kate Lindquist lives with her husband and young family in a small coastal town in regional Australia. She spends each day with her three little muses, who love exploring local rivers and beaches, fossicking in rockpools, and mudlarking in the mangroves. In the evenings, with salty hair and sand between their toes, Kate and her children relive their adventures through storytelling. Kate draws inspiration for her writing by looking at the world through the lens of children, making observations of everyday happenings and celebrating life's simple moments.

Hugo keeps stopping to collect rubbish, but Poppy wants him to hurry. How can Hugo make her see how important this is?

Hugo and his sister Poppy enjoy taking walks round the lake, but Hugo is always stopping to look for rubbish. When it starts to rain, Poppy wants him to hurry up – and she can't see the importance of picking up rubbish. With pockets bulging, Hugo eventually sorts his "treasure", puts it to good use, and convinces his sister of the importance of looking for litter. A beautifully illustrated, timely, and engaging story about the significance of looking after your environment and the small steps we can all take to achieve this.

Kate Lindquist & Albertina Neri
Children's Picture Book
Hardcover | 32 pages | 978-1-76036-226-3
Trim Size: 8.5" H x 10.3" W
List Price: \$18.95
Publisher: Starfish Bay® Publishing

Genre: Realistic Fiction / Environmental Conservation
Reading Level: Grade K-2
Interest Level: Grades PreK-4
Guided Reading Level: J
Lexile® Measure: 480L
Accelerated Reader® Level/Points: 2.4/0.5

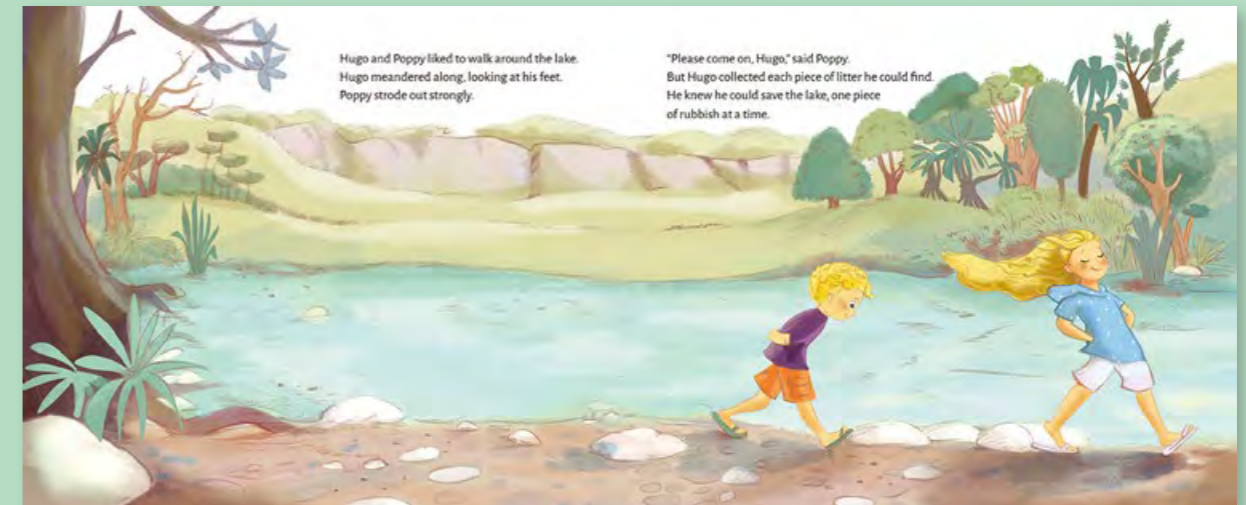
Albertina Neri is from a small town near Milan, Italy. A freelance illustrator and graphic designer, Albertina also holds creative workshops for children in schools and loves everything about childhood and imagination. As a child, Albertina understood the importance of literature, and she believes that books are treasures made to help children.



Hugo piled his collection on the bedroom floor. He sorted through it.

He had a silvery button and a shiny bottle cap, some old fishing line and a washer.

"Why do we have rubbish on the bedroom floor?" Poppy whined.



The Land of Nope

Come on a fantastical journey to the Land of Nope, to where backwards-speaking Nopians sit beneath the noponut tree.

Sail away to a quirky, tropical paradise in "The Land of Nope". Join our brave narrator on a whimsical journey to meet the hairy, friendly Nopians, who speak backwards and shuffle on hot sand. With playful rhymes and enchanting illustrations, discover a world where seaweed is both food and fashion and new friendships blossom under the shade of the noponut tree. Perfect for young readers, this delightful adventure celebrates curiosity, kindness, and the joy of exploring the unknown.

Chris Macdonald & Katrin Ehrlich
Children's Picture Book
Hardcover | 32 pages | 978-1-76036-237-9
Trim Size: 8.5" H x 10.3" W
List Price: \$18.95
Publisher: Starfish Bay® Publishing

Genre: Fantasy / Adventure Fiction
Reading Level: Grade 1-2
Interest Level: Grades PreK-4
Guided Reading Level: J
Lexile® Measure: 480L
Accelerated Reader® Level/Points: 2.4/0.5

Chris Macdonald writes stories about going on adventures, stories inspired by his own experiences in some of our planet's harshest environments, whether traversing glaciers in Iceland, trekking across Australian deserts, or interacting with wild orangutans in the jungles of Borneo. He also enjoys time at home in Australia, occasionally helping his mother move heavy things around, and being in the gym moving other heavy things around. Chris sincerely hopes you and your family will enjoy his debut book.



Key Features:

- An imaginative and whimsical tale of adventure and fantasy!
- The story unfolds like a sail in this well-paced rhyming book.
- Fall in love with the round, fluffy Nopian creatures as these traditional illustrations illuminate them and their world.

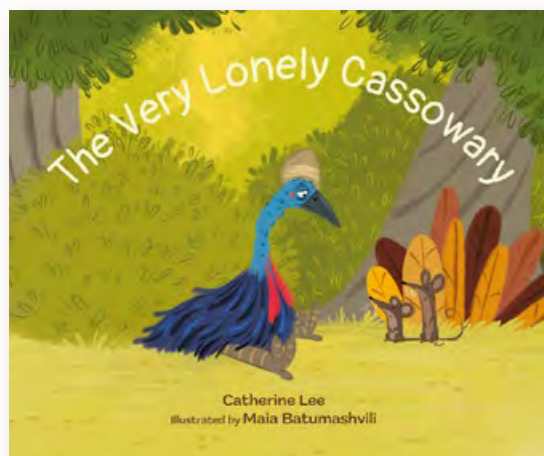
Themes:

- Exploration and adventure
- Overcoming fear of the unknown
- Friendship across differences
- Not judging by appearances
- Cultural differences and acceptance
- Bravery and courage
- Imagination and wonder
- Kindness to strangers
- Respecting personal boundaries
- Journey and discovery

Katrin Ehrlich graduated with an MA from the Estonian Academy of Arts in printmaking and studied silk printing at the Danish Design School in Copenhagen. Living in Tallinn, Estonia, she has illustrated over 30 children's books and received numerous awards. Believing that a children's book is a larger whole in which story and visuals work harmoniously together, Katrin seeks to produce dreams and visions that text can only brush upon.



The Very Lonely Cassowary



Key Features:

- STEM Learning Through Story: Introduces children to the biology of flightless birds and the diverse ecosystems of the Australian rainforest.
- Children and parents will enjoy sharing this uplifting tale which explores themes of self-belief and celebrating uniqueness.
- Visually rich artwork that will delight readers with its depiction of the characters and settings.

Catherine Lee & Maia Batumashvili
Children's Picture Book
Hardcover | 32 pages | 978-1-76036-249-2
Trim Size: 8.5" H x 10.3" W
List Price: \$18.95
Publisher: Starfish Bay® Publishing

Genre: Realistic Fiction / Animal Story
Reading Level: Grade 2-3
Interest Level: Grades K-5
Guided Reading Level: L
Lexile® Measure: 560L
Accelerated Reader® Level/Points: 3.0/0.5

Themes:

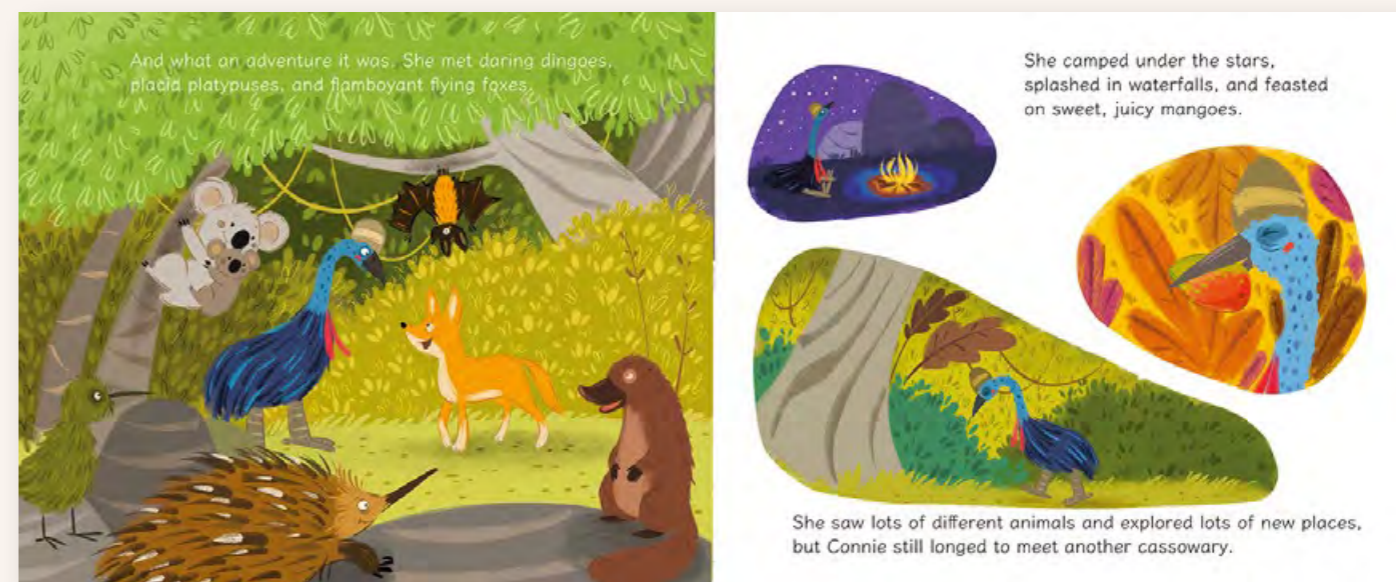
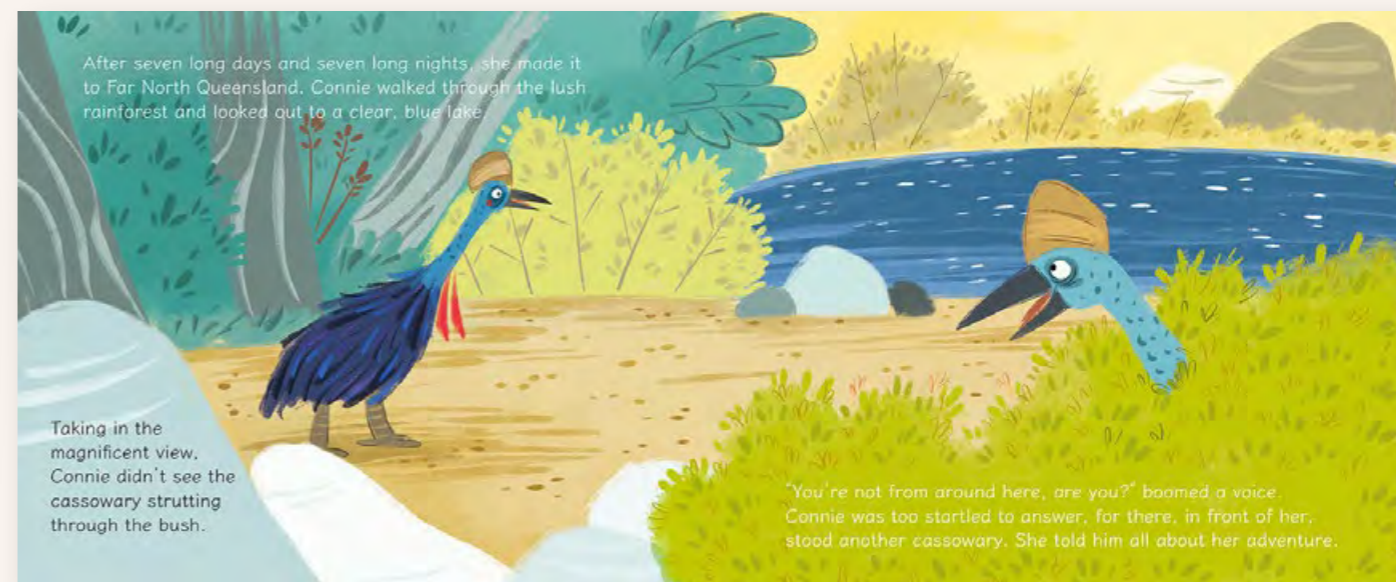
- Self-acceptance and identity
- Celebrating differences and uniqueness
- Loneliness and belonging
- Courage and adventure
- Finding your community
- Recognizing your strengths
- Overcoming bullying and teasing
- Australian wildlife and geography
- Heroism and helping others
- Journey of self-discovery

A lone cassowary journeys north to be with others of her kind and learns that being different can be a strength.

Connie is a cassowary living on Australia's Gold Coast. Unable to fly, she feels different from the birds around her. But when Connie discovers that cassowaries can be found living in the tropical far north of Queensland, she embarks on a determined journey to meet her kin, making friends and enjoying new experiences along the way. This is a touching story that encourages readers to celebrate their individuality and the qualities that make us special. The story also features striking artwork that complements the themes, characters, and setting.

Catherine Lee lives in Australia with her husband and two little girls. She stumbled into children's writing after many hours of imaginary play with her eldest daughter. With a master's in business and a degree and career in communications, Catherine has always had a passion for writing. When she's not playing or reading with her girls, she loves to explore the great outdoors and go on adventures to far-flung places.

Maia Batumashvili was born in Tbilisi, Georgia in 1978. Since a young age, Maia has loved to draw and is inspired by the children's books and cartoons she grew up with. After graduating from two art institutes, Maia worked on an animation project before finally realizing her dream of illustrating children's books. When Maia is not creating imaginative worlds, she enjoys spending time with her three beautiful children and her dog, Tayo.



One Lonely Lizard

A lonely lizard wonders why other animals get all the attention then realises no one sees him due to his camouflage.

Bruce, a lonely lizard, just wants a friend. He spends his days trying to catch the eyes of passersby, but the other Australian animals get all the attention. It's not until he sees some eyes staring at him, and realises that they belong to camouflaged lizards, that he realises that he, too, just can't be seen—and soon he has the friends he's always longed for. This funny story about perseverance, just being yourself, and friendship, written in upbeat rhyming verse, with playful and expressive illustrations, is sure to delight and amuse young readers.



Key Features:

- A funny story about perseverance, just being yourself, and finding friendship.
- Upbeat, rhythmic rhyming verse.
- Playful and expressive illustrations that capture the uniqueness of the Australian setting and wildlife.

Themes:

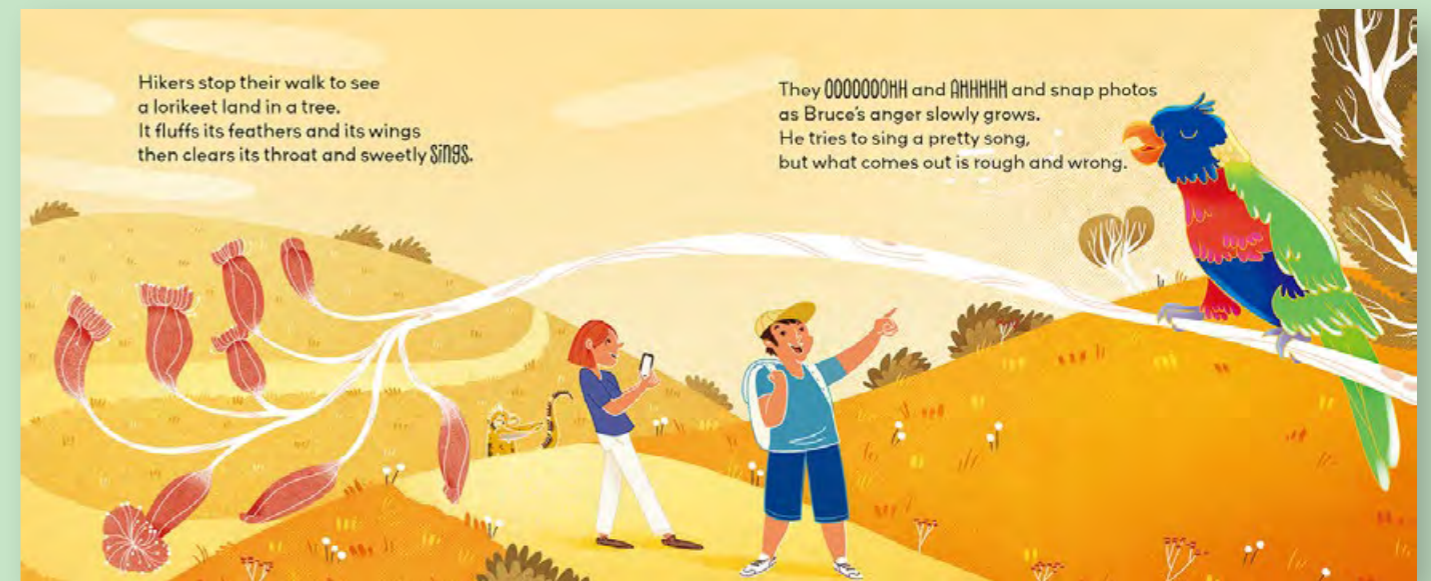
- Loneliness and isolation
- Finding belonging and friendship
- Being yourself authentically
- Camouflage and natural adaptation
- Acceptance and self-acceptance
- Trying to fit in
- Discovering your unique qualities
- Australian wildlife and habitat
- Persistence in seeking connection
- Community and inclusion

Karyn Miller & Giulia Lombardo
Children's Picture Book
Hardcover | 32 pages | 978-1-80036-073-0
Trim Size: 8.5" H x 10.3" W
List Price: \$18.95
Publisher: Starfish Bay® Publishing

Genre: Animal Fiction / Friendship
Reading Level: Grade K-2
Interest Level: Grades PreK-3
Guided Reading Level: J
Lexile® Measure: 490L
Accelerated Reader® Level/Points: 2.4/0.5

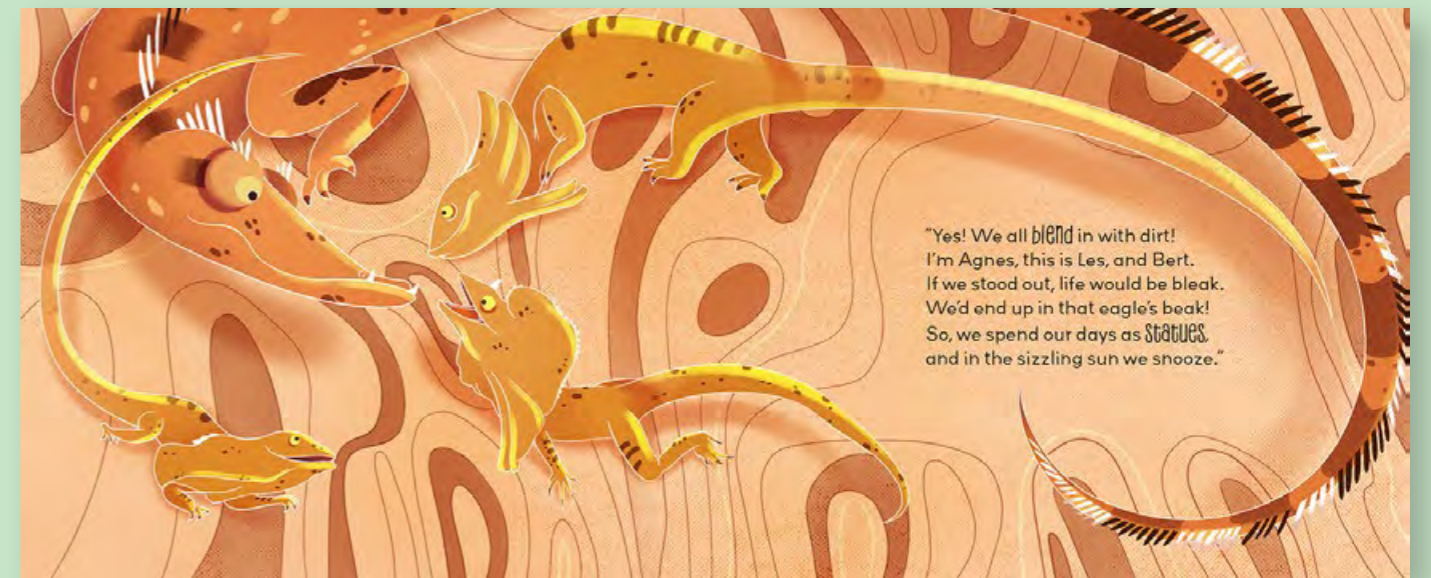
Karyn Miller is a New Zealand born author who lives in Queensland, Australia. After gaining a Diploma in Creative Writing with distinctions, Karyn found her true calling and passion in life - to craft heartfelt, thought-provoking picture books that will instil curiosity and a love of reading into children all around the world. With several years of experience working with young children as a Teacher Aide, Karyn aims to encourage children who live in a world full of judgement, to be unapologetically themselves.

Giulia Lombardo was born in Florence, Italy on Christmas Eve, 1991. She lives and works in a small studio surrounded by cats, dogs and other animals, as well as her colleague Arianna. Giulia graduated from the Nemo Academy of Digital Arts in 2013, and since then has worked as a children's book illustrator alongside several international publishers. In her spare time, Giulia builds vintage chicken coops, produces homemade yoghurt and enjoys trekking.



Hikers stop their walk to see a lorikeet land in a tree. It fluffs its feathers and its wings then clears its throat and sweetly SINGS.

They OOOOOOOHH and AHHHHH and snap photos as Bruce's anger slowly grows. He tries to sing a pretty song, but what comes out is rough and wrong.



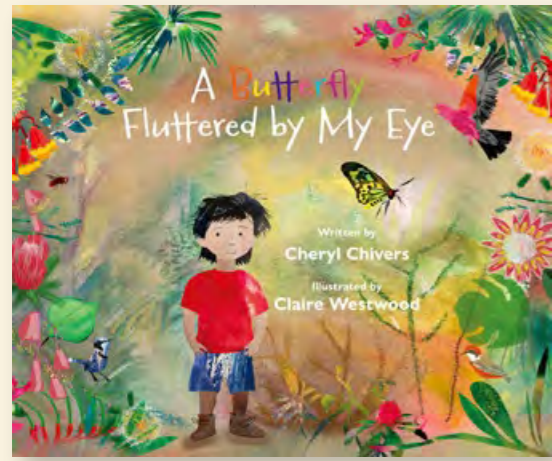
"Yes! We all blend in with dirt! I'm Agnes, this is Les, and Bert. If we stood out, life would be bleak. We'd end up in that eagle's beak! So, we spend our days as STATUES, and in the sizzling sun we snooze."



Then he sees a hiking crowd near a dingoo, standing proud. It sniffs the air and shakes its tail then bolts away back down the trail.

"Oh, so cute!" yells one small boy. "I want to take it as my toy!" "Hey!" cries Bruce. "Look here at me! I'm cute too. WHY CAN'T YOU SEE?"

A Butterfly Flattered by My Eye



Key Features:

- A careful dive into the wonders of Australian nature – with a reminder not to go where you're not supposed to.
- Rapid rhythmic rhymes give this story a sense of fast-paced adventure.
- Eye-catching print weaves rich textures and emotions throughout the pages.

Cheryl Chivers & Claire Westwood
Children's Picture Book
Hardcover | 32 pages | 978-1-76036-222-5
Trim Size: 8.5" H x 10.3" W
List Price: \$18.95
Publisher: Starfish Bay® Publishing

Genre: Adventure Fiction / Nature Story

Reading Level: Grade 2-3

Interest Level: Grades K-4

Guided Reading Level: L

Lexile® Measure: 520L

Accelerated Reader® Level/Points: 2.6/0.5

Themes:

- Childhood curiosity and exploration
- Disobeying parental warnings
- Facing fears and danger
- Self-reliance and courage
- Encountering nature's creatures
- Consequences of rule-breaking
- Bravery in frightening situations
- Honesty and accountability
- Outdoor adventure and discovery

Straying into the bush brings on an encounter with all sorts of creepy crawlies... and some even less friendly critters!

Playing on rhyme and sound, "A Butterfly Flattered by My Eye" explores the perils of the Australian bush through the perspective of an over-inquisitive child who has wondered where they shouldn't. A clever mix of cautionary and delightful, this story serves to immerse readers in adventure, while learning some key safety tips along the way.

Bold printed illustrations capture the sense of excitement, wonder... and danger too...

Cheryl Chivers was born in Grafton, NSW, Australia on the mighty Clarence River. Surrounded by amazing floodplains, gorges, beaches, wetlands and rainforests, Cheryl developed a keen interest in environmental conservation. By studying Environmental Education, Children's Literature and Storytelling, Cheryl was able to integrate her interest with her career in teaching and her love of writing. Since retirement, Cheryl now resides on a bush block near the sea which she shares with her husband and a variety of native animals.

Claire Westwood currently lives in Sussex, England. Using mixed media, Claire creates emotional expressions of spontaneous inspiration, with dreamlike, imagined scenes. Using colour as a main feature, her work is said to be ethereal with a story to be told. Claire studied Art at university and has a postgraduate degree in illustration. Her experience ranges from fine art, book and magazine illustration to logos, web design and advertising.



Poheebie and Her Butterflies

Though Poheebie seems brave, the butterflies in her stomach make her adventures difficult.

To everyone else, Poheebie seems to be the bravest in the bush. But what they don't know is that she has butterflies in her stomach! Poheebie is training her butterflies so that they don't flutter this way and that while she is doing scary things, but instead enjoy the experience with her.

Ink and watercolor-style illustrations bring to life this story about dealing with feelings of fear, nervousness, and anxiety.

Raised by an adventurous family, **Tobias Ryan** was inspired to travel and enjoy many different life experiences. A former primary school teacher, Tobias was fascinated by his students' positive responses to storytelling. Now, Tobias enjoys a peaceful life, residing in a bus in the bush on the east coast of Australia, while working in the renewable energy sector. He continues to listen to other people's life stories and remains intrigued by the art of story-telling and its connection with learning.

Matteo Merli is an artist from Italy who has worked widely in the film and TV industry. With a rich background in character creation and conceptualization, Matteo brings this knowledge into his work as an illustrator. Matteo has worked for many publishing houses and, over the years, has carefully developed his technique. Matteo enjoys illustrating using Bic pens, a Wacom Intuos 4 tablet, Photoshop C5, and SketchBook Pro.



Key Features:

- Explores complicated feelings via a positive and upbeat narrative.
- A story about surmounting fears and overcoming – and living with – feelings of anxiety.
- Captivating ink and watercolor-style illustrations marry character and setting to show children that feelings of fear don't have to limit them.

Tobias Ryan & Matteo Merli
Children's Picture Book
Hardcover | 32 pages | 978-1-76036-247-8
Trim Size: 8.5" H x 10.3" W
List Price: \$18.95
Publisher: Starfish Bay® Publishing

Genre: Realistic Fiction / Social-Emotional Learning
Reading Level: Grade 2-4
Interest Level: Grades K-5
Guided Reading Level: M
Lexile® Measure: 570L
Accelerated Reader® Level/Points: 3.2/0.5

Themes:

- Managing anxiety and nervousness
- Courage despite fear
- Mindfulness and self-regulation
- Emotional awareness
- Coping strategies
- Bravery and confidence
- Self-talk and encouragement
- Adventure and outdoor activities
- Trust and self-trust
- Being seen versus feeling unseen



When it's finally time for Poheebie to dance on a wave, her butterflies can't help but dance, too. They all dance together as if they are dancing as one.

When Poheebie turns on the wave, her butterflies, as if in a flying-formation, turn on the wave, too.

When Poheebie lets the wave fold over her head, her butterflies listen to the air whooshing. They are enjoying this beautiful time together.



But Poheebie has been *training* her butterflies. During her treetop dance, Poheebie lets her butterflies fly wherever they wish.

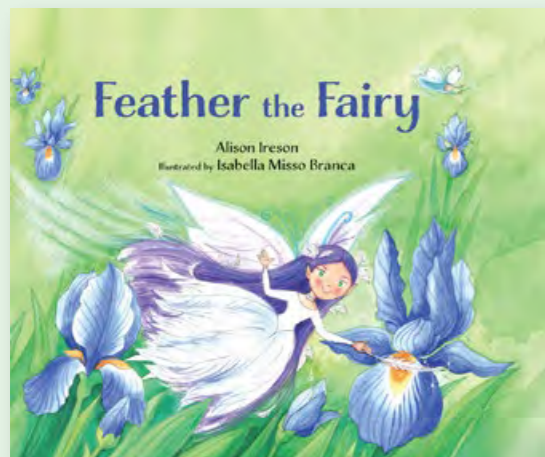
"Dearest butterflies," says Poheebie, "stretch your wings and fly wherever you please."

As Poheebie turns and swirls, her butterflies go this way and that, up and down, flying all around. This is her butterflies' time to fly free.



After lunch, when her butterflies are racing her to cross the rickety, old Broken Bridge at Canyon Falls, Poheebie knows the race won't be won by pace. She shows her butterflies that a steady climb is rewarded by the sweet smell of the prettiest wildflowers.

Feather the Fairy



Key Features:

- A relatable school story with a strong and compelling fairy character. Perfect for little girls starting at or struggling with school.
- A charming tale of overcoming barriers and focusing on one's strengths!
- Beautiful and flowing illustrations paint Feather's magical world in vibrant color.

Themes:

- Learning differences and challenges
- Perseverance and determination
- Finding your strengths
- Teacher support and understanding
- Overcoming learning difficulties
- Self-confidence and self-acceptance
- Everyone learns differently
- Discovering new talents
- Asking for help is brave
- Growth mindset and resilience

Alison Ireson believes that imagination will get you everywhere. She also believes that books, lasagne, board games and the odd waterfall will make the journey far more enjoyable. Alison lives on an isolated, wild patch of property in Far North Queensland with her husband and two daughters. This seclusion is probably lucky as she never lets the minor detail of her voice sounding like a wailing banshee stop her from singing at random times throughout the day!

Feather the Fairy must fight both sea creatures and her own doubts when she struggles starting school.

Feather the Fairy has started school and is thriving, until Feather's smile falters and she withdraws from her friends. When her kind teacher Miss Grace pulls her aside to ask her what's wrong, Feather bursts out that reading and writing is too hard. Then she flies off!

Can Miss Grace help Feather discover her strengths to reignite her love for school?

Alison Ireson & Isabella Misso Branca
Children's Picture Book
Hardcover | 32 pages | 978-1-80036-054-9
Trim Size: 9.5" H x 10.0" W
List Price: \$18.95
Publisher: Starfish Bay® Publishing

Genre: Fantasy / Social-Emotional Learning
Reading Level: Grade 2-3
Interest Level: Grades K-4
Guided Reading Level: L
Lexile® Measure: 570L
Accelerated Reader® Level/Points: 2.7/0.5

Isabella Misso Branca was born in Milan, Italy. Fascinated with art since childhood, Isabella studied at Liceo Artistico and the European Institute of Design, Milan. Isabella has written and illustrated books for many prominent worldwide publishers, often using her favorite medium – watercolor! A prize winning and respected artist, Isabella has recently been collaborating with schools and libraries, curating laboratories of reading, writing and illustration.



Feather loved stories and just couldn't wait to learn how to write and to read. School was about to begin for the year. She knew, at this too, she'd succeed.

Fairy Dale Primary School opened its doors, and Feather's new teacher, Miss Grace, caring and thoughtful, made sure she had fun. The smile never left Feather's face.



Schoolwork began and progressed as weeks passed, but Feather's smile started to fade. Heaviness dragged down her beautiful wings. At lunchtime, she no longer played.

Catching Miss Grace glancing over her way, she watched her first frown and then sigh. Thinking her teacher was angry with her, made Feather feel like she...

Gasping and grinning, she laughed to herself. "It's good I can fly and can swim." Memories of school then invaded her thoughts. Her mood changed from happy to grim.

Drawing up courage the following day, though rocks seemed to drag at her feet. Feather breathed deeply then flew back to school. She nervously perched on her seat.



Sheep and Dog

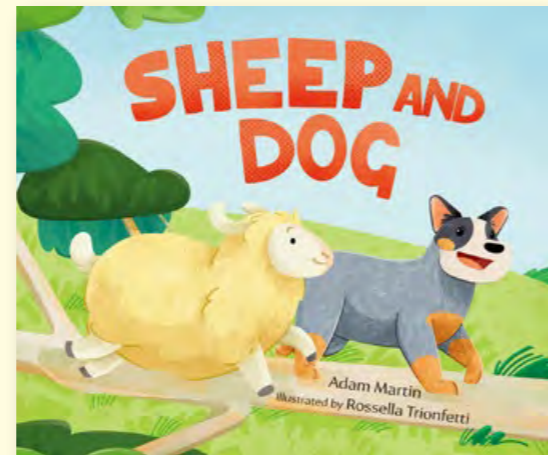
A misfit sheep and sheepdog have a rollicking adventure to find freedom and follow their dreams.

When a massive storm knocks down a tree, it creates the perfect escape route for freedom-craving Sheep and her adventurous friend, Dog. The misfit friends set out on a wild and rollicking journey by truck, through town, and by train, trailer, and garbage truck to the circus, where they finally find where they belong. This fast-paced story, in rollicking rhyming verse with adorably bold illustrations, will keep kids on the edge of their seats until the surprise ending.

Adam Martin & Rossella Trionfetti
Children's Picture Book
Hardcover | 32 pages | 978-1-80036-064-8
Trim Size: 8.5" H x 10.3" W
List Price: \$18.95
Publisher: Starfish Bay® Publishing

Genre: Adventure Fiction / Humorous Fiction
Reading Level: Grade 2-3
Interest Level: Grades K-5
Guided Reading Level: L
Lexile® Measure: 550L
Accelerated Reader® Level/Points: 2.9/0.5

Adam Martin is an army veteran and full-time dad from New South Wales, Australia. He lives on a small farm with a chicken who thinks it's a duck, ducks who think they're dogs, dogs who think they're kids, and two kids who think they're adults. He enjoys reading to his kids, making people laugh, and the idea of sleep.



Key Features:

- A funny story about true friendship, daring to follow your dreams, freedom, and finding your place in the world.
- STEM Learning Through Story: Introduces physical science concepts such as force, motion, and different modes of transportation.
- Bold and engaging artwork that captures the energy, excitement, and humor of this story.

Themes:

- Finding where you belong
- Friendship and unlikely partnerships
- Being different and unique
- Adventure and exploration
- Following your dreams
- Breaking free from expectations
- Embracing who you are
- Teamwork and cooperation
- Humor and fun
- Turning weaknesses into strengths
- Acceptance and appreciation

Rossella Trionfetti is an Italian illustrator, living in the foothills of the Apennines in the Marche region of Italy. Her love for books led her to pursue the world of illustration. A graduate of Mimaster, Milan, Rosella currently works as a freelance illustrator and has worked for many renowned publishers on books, apps, interactive games, and more. Rossella enjoys hiking in the mountains, reading, and growing carnivorous plants.



The train was slowing down, and then its brakes let out a screech. They dived and found the platform, which was by a sunny beach. Sheep stood there in awe at all the sand and sea and ships, while Dog pursued his nose to some unguarded fish and chips.



People came from every house and closed in on them fast. Then Dog saw that a garbage truck was driving slowly past. He leaped on Sheep again and weaved her right across the lawn. They jumped from car to truck, and moments later they were gone!



He ushered them aside, while saying brightly as he twirled, "I'd love if you would let me share your talents with the world." So, they set off in excitement feeling lighter than a feather. And that's how Dog and Sheep became a circus act together!

Serena and the Sun



Key Features:

- A story rich in emotion and beauty.
- STEM Learning Through Story: Introduces young readers to the concepts of shifting seasons and shorter daylight hours through an engaging narrative.
- Ethereal artwork perfectly captures the atmosphere and mood of the story through vivid color and texture.

Alanna Alfaro & Claire Westwood
Children's Picture Book
Hardcover | 32 pages | 978-1-80036-079-2
Trim Size: 8.5" H x 10.3" W
List Price: \$18.95
Publisher: Starfish Bay® Publishing

Serena and the Sun play together every day, but Serena is sad when he stops coming.

Serena and the Sun are good friends and play together every day after school in Serena's garden. But as the days go by, the Sun plays and stays less and less, and soon he is no longer there at all. Without her friend, Serena is sad, so she seeks the help of the Wise Wind to help her find light for her days once more.

However can she get by without her friend?

Genre: Fantasy / Nature & Seasons
Reading Level: Grade 2-3
Interest Level: Grades K-4
Guided Reading Level: L
Lexile® Measure: 550L
Accelerated Reader® Level/Points: 2.8/0.5

Themes:

- Understanding seasonal changes
- Coping with loss and change
- Finding beauty in darkness
- Friendship and nature connection
- Creativity and imagination
- Resilience and adaptation
- Wonder and magic in nature
- Australian flora and fauna
- Environmental appreciation
- Inner light and self-discovery

Alanna Alfaro grew up in a remote coastal town in Yolngu country, NT, Australia. When younger, she would listen to tall tales of unruly crocodiles and infamous bunyips. This inspired her to write, and she has been crafting her own tall tales ever since. Alanna now lives with her husband and three children on a magical little farm in Birpai country, NSW. She fossicks for stories hidden along the creek, tree hollows and hills around their home.

Claire Westwood currently lives in Sussex, England. Using mixed media, Claire creates emotional expressions of spontaneous inspiration, with dreamlike, imagined scenes. Using color as a main feature, her work is said to be ethereal with a story to be told. Claire studied Art at university and has a postgraduate degree in illustration. Her experience ranges from fine art, book and magazine illustration to logos, web design and advertising.



When Grandma Comes to Play

Grandma is coming to play, and Mollie can't wait. What might they get up to?

Grandma is coming to play, and Mollie is SO excited. What will they do together? Play at the park? Visit the zoo? Or maybe they'll just hang around at home. Whatever it is, Mollie knows it'll be the BEST time. Grandma always has the most fun ideas.

Featuring cheerful, captivating characters that manage to make the mundane feel magical!

Niki Wahapa was born in Sydney, and raised in Perth, Western Australia. She has a strong family heritage and link to New Zealand. Graduating in 2009 from Notre Dame University as a Registered Nurse, Niki later became inspired to write children's books. She currently still lives in Perth, Australia with her husband Mark, and children Riley, Alex and Charlotte - who love to listen and review her work. She also has two big dogs, Tilly and Zara, who contribute to her narratives.

Elisa Rocchi was born in Bologna, Italy. With a love of drawing since childhood, Elisa graduated from the Academy of Fine Art in Bologna before moving to Milan. Returning to Bologna with her family as inspiration, Elisa currently works as an illustrator.



Key Features:

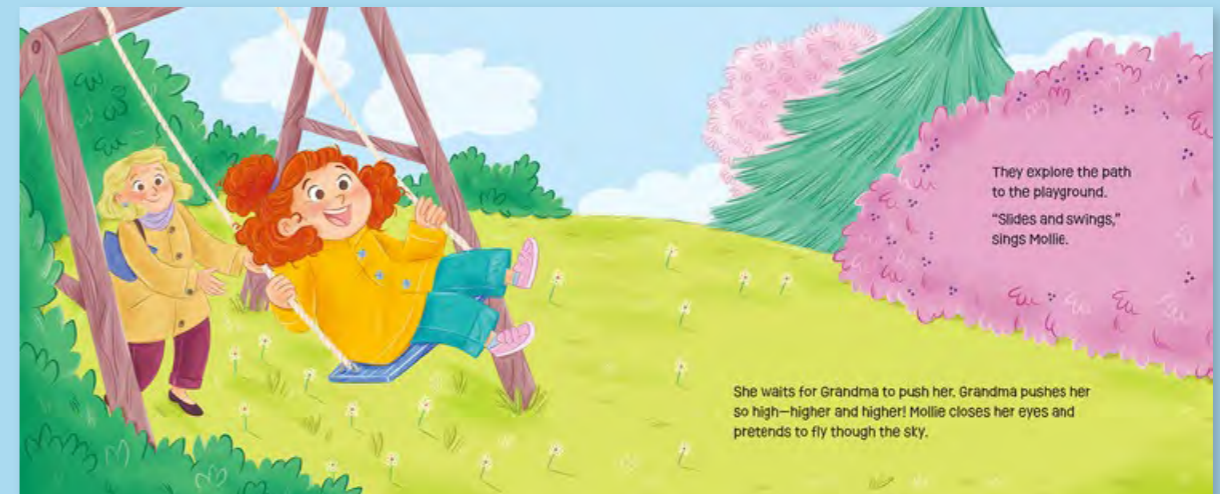
- STEM Learning Through Story: Introduces early childhood concepts of botany and the water cycle through the gardening and outdoor play scenes.
- A heartwarming story about a visit from Grandma! This story captures the magic of the mundane whenever grandparents come around.
- Bubbly characters bring excitement and allure to this everyday story.

Niki Wahapa & Elisa Rocchi
Children's Picture Book
Hardcover | 32 pages | 978-1-76036-225-6
Trim Size: 8.5" H x 10.3" W
List Price: \$18.95
Publisher: Starfish Bay® Publishing

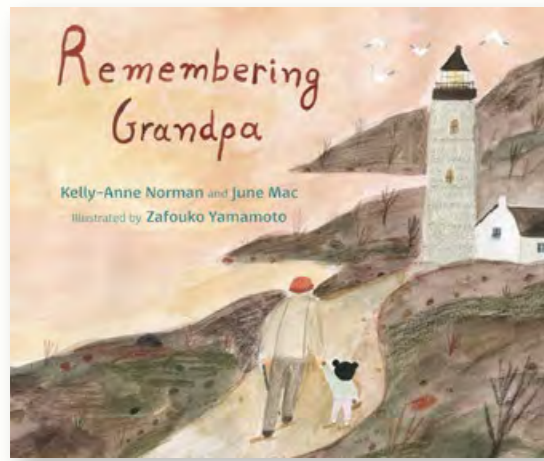
Genre: Realistic Fiction / Family Story
Reading Level: Grade K-1
Interest Level: Grades PreK-3
Guided Reading Level: H
Lexile® Measure: 410L
Accelerated Reader® Level/Points: 1.7/0.5

Themes:

- Grandparent-grandchild relationships
- Quality time together
- Simple joys and everyday fun
- Intergenerational bonding
- Love and family connection
- Making memories
- Appreciation for family
- Shared activities
- Warmth and comfort
- Anticipation and excitement



Remembering Grandpa



Key Features:

- STEM Learning Through Story: This narrative can be used to introduce children to the concept of how the human brain stores and retrieves memories.
- A moving and heartfelt story about dealing with loss and celebrating connections to family.
- Tender, captivating illustrations that perfectly reflect the themes and emotion of this story.

A young girl searches for memories of her beloved grandfather.

Aria has a fantastic memory. At five, she can recall many special moments, but is unable to remember her grandfather, who passed away several years earlier. As she talks to her family, Aria learns about Grandpa John – yet the warmth, adventure, and fun remain missing from her mind. But, when Mum reads from Grandpa's notebook, Aria finally discovers the best memory she could possibly have. Remembering Grandpa is a thoughtful and moving story about remembering loved ones and cherishing special moments together. Featuring captivating artwork that highlights the themes and emotions within.

Kelly-Anne Norman & June Mac, Zafouko Yamamoto
Children's Picture Book
Hardcover | 32 pages | 978-1-80036-053-2
Trim Size: 8.5" H x 10.3" W
List Price: \$18.95
Publisher: Starfish Bay® Publishing

Genre: Realistic Fiction / Grief and Loss
Reading Level: Grade K-3
Interest Level: Grades PreK-4
Guided Reading Level: L
Lexile® Measure: 540L
Accelerated Reader® Level/Points: 2.7/0.5

Themes:

- Grief and loss
- Family memories and legacy
- Dealing with death of a loved one
- Intergenerational love
- Creating memories without personal recall
- Family storytelling traditions
- Love transcending death
- Comfort in difficult times
- Honoring those who have passed
- Finding connection through stories

Zafouko Yamamoto was born in Thessaloniki, Greece where she studied architecture at the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki. Using the alias Zafouko Yamamoto, her work has been published throughout the world. She lives with her cat and dog, loves walks in nature, coffee and animals.

