



THE CHILDREN'S
BOOK COUNCIL
OF AUSTRALIA
NSW BRANCH

KIDS' CORNER

March 2021

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Become part of a

World of words

with



Illustration (C) Sadami Konchi

POETRY

create word patterns with HAIKU, verse novels and more

BOOKS

discover what's new with the latest from our authors and illustrators

STORIES

make imagination part of your everyday life





Special THANKS to our GUEST ILLUSTRATOR - SADAMI KONCHI

My art career started before kindergarten on the walls around me. I drew uni lecturers' faces on the notes and became a class hero. Today, I have been awarded these art prizes - a May Gibbs Fellow for a project and twice as a Doug Moran Australian portrait semi-finalist. Because of these awards, I also plan to run watercolour painting

workshops for students or people with disabilities.

(Sadami has also been recognised for a number of other awards)

My art materials include:

Watercolour paints - Beautiful. Transparent.

Graphites - Irremovable. Unsoluble.

Pencils - my Magic Sticks since I was 3 years old.

I enjoy creating figures and I love drawing anything: animals, insects, nature, cartoon, imagination etc.

"Life is beautiful. People are lovely," is my message in all walks of life.

Welcome to KC for March 2021 - March has stacks to become involved with.

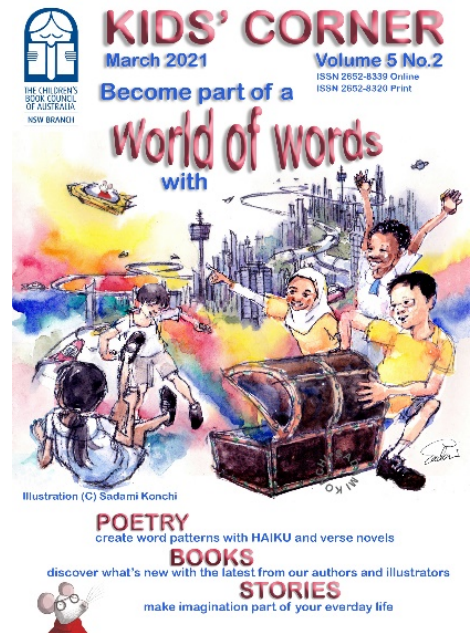
Can you find Morrie in this month's **amazing WORLD of WORDS?**

Our guest illustrator, **SADAMI KONCHI**, has created a remarkable cover for **KIDS' CORNER** for March 2021 to showcase **POETRY, STORIES and NEW BOOKS**.

Follow **URSULA DUBOSARSKY'S MARCH OF THE ANTS** and **LIBBY'S HATHORN'S** links to find out why reading stories is essential and what makes poetry special.

Join with many of our authors and illustrators who encourage you to make imagination part of your life and find out **WHAT'S NEW** with their great new releases.

Begin planning to **READ** and **COLLIDE** your own book trailers based on the **CBCA Notable** books as we gather momentum for **CBCA BOOK WEEK 2021** which will feature: **OLD WORLDS, NEW WORLDS and OTHER WORLDS**





WHAT MAKES POETRY SPECIAL?

URSULA DUBOSARSK
AUSTRALIAN CHILDREN'S LAUREATE

Poetry makes you think in a different way to what you're used to - both when you read it, and when you write it. It breaks through to a part of your mind that is otherwise hidden. Poems use words and sounds and thoughts to fit together like a beautiful wooden puzzle.

Just as with a jigsaw, when you begin reading a poem you may not be sure what it's all about, but by the time you get to the end, even if you

have to read it several times, there is a surprise picture waiting for you. Poems, to me, are like birdsongs, full of mystery and melody.

I read poetry all the time and have ever since I learned to read. In fact, I have a bookshelf at home that is ALL poetry books. I sit in a chair next to it and pull out a book and read a poem whenever I feel like it.

❖ *What types of poetry do you like to create?*

So many types! Rhyming poems, poems that don't rhyme, poems in shapes, poems that are songs, poems that are plays, poems that are books. Poems that are very short, like haiku, poems that are long, like ballads. Poems with set numbers of lines, like sonnets, or poems that may never be finished, like epic poems.

❖ *Any hints for budding poets?*

I think if you read a lot of poetry you start to think like a poet. Lines swim into your mind. When they do, jot them down in a notebook so they don't swim away! After a while some of those lines might turn themselves into a poem before you realise it.

When you write poetry, even serious poetry, you have to think in a playful way.

You have to play with the sounds of words, their meanings, their double meanings, how they work together and apart. They can reveal things to the reader – and to you - that you were not expecting. That's the excitement of poetry!



READING AND POETRY – LIBBY HATHORN

Little did I think as a little girl in a bigish family where books were few and much treasured, I'd ever write a book of my own; or as a high school child who believed most authors were dead, that I'd be a living author who over time would talk to many thousands of children and young adults!

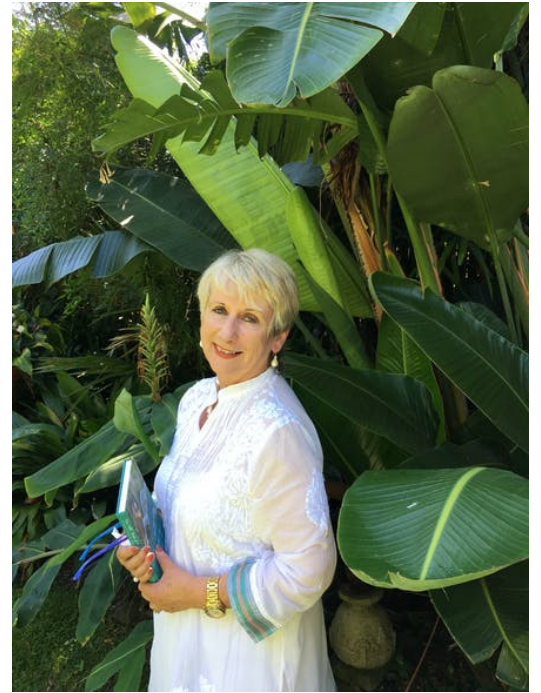
Or that an early picture story book of mine and Julie Vivas' very first picture book, THE TRAM TO BONDI BEACH (Harper Collins) would enjoy its 40th year in continuous print with a new hardback edition in early January 2021.

I put it all down to POETRY – I was read to a lot in my childhood and it settled in my brain to help me build a great imagination; and to READING. I was often found behind the lounge in our noisy household with my head in a book, visiting other worlds of course!

Never believe that READING can't change you. It can!

And always believe that POETRY has enormous power over your heart and mind.

It does!



www.libbyhathorn.com Twitter

poetrywizard

Instagram

libby.hathorn



UNESCO WORLD POETRY DAY – MARCH 21

celebrates the oral traditions that began in the past and helps sing the praises and word patterns of ideas that bring cultures and ideas together to shape our futures.

A POEM 4 U

*When Morrie was writing a poem,
He would actually feel right at home.
He often would say,
“Please come hear what I say.”
And he found he was never alone.*

HAIKU - SADAMI KONCHI

❖ How would you describe HAIKU?

HAIKU is one of the world's shortest poetry styles. It was originally developed in Japan. Today, it has become very popular all over the world!

Haiku comes out from your heart and reaches others in any language.

❖ What are some of the characteristics of this poetry?

Haiku has 5-7-5 syllables in Japanese and one kigo or a season word.

In English, that is three lines or one breath.

Rhymes and word patterns will change when translated between different languages.

❖ What do you like about it?

A haiku rhythm is in my blood because of its music-like comfortable sounds and clever word playing in old and modern Japanese, my mother tongue. It's like Mother Goose for English speakers.

❖ How do you create Haiku?

Find an interesting subject, a sensational moment around me or in nature. Then, sing a song with words for nature from the heart with compassion.

Use literary devices efficiently: pun, word playing, metaphor, connotation, hyperbole, onomatopoeia, other. My emotion comes first with a visual image.

Keep it simple in a short poem!



My own haiku and its illustration:

*Baby, the first step
in all fresh green
sunshine showering.*

乳児歩く
万緑の中
陽を受けて

<http://thestylefile.com/illustrator/sadami-konchi/>



WRITE NOW – JOURNALS

Now is probably a good time to remind yourself that journals are a handy place to keep the parts of your ideas that may grow into something quite special. Write down word patterns, unique things you see happening, or conversations you may have overheard. They may form the start of a “think” or a story or a poem that you may want to write more about later.

MY AUSTRALIA - JULIE MURPHY

I trained as a zoologist and zookeeper, and have been a children’s book author and presenter for around twenty years.

Why do I write? Because it’s fun! What do I write about? Mostly my main interests – animals and the environment.

*This is my country
Of sand and stone.
Wild wind-carved mountains,
White salty foam.*

What makes poetry special?

Poetry sings to the soul. It embodies feelings that need not be explained in the writing.

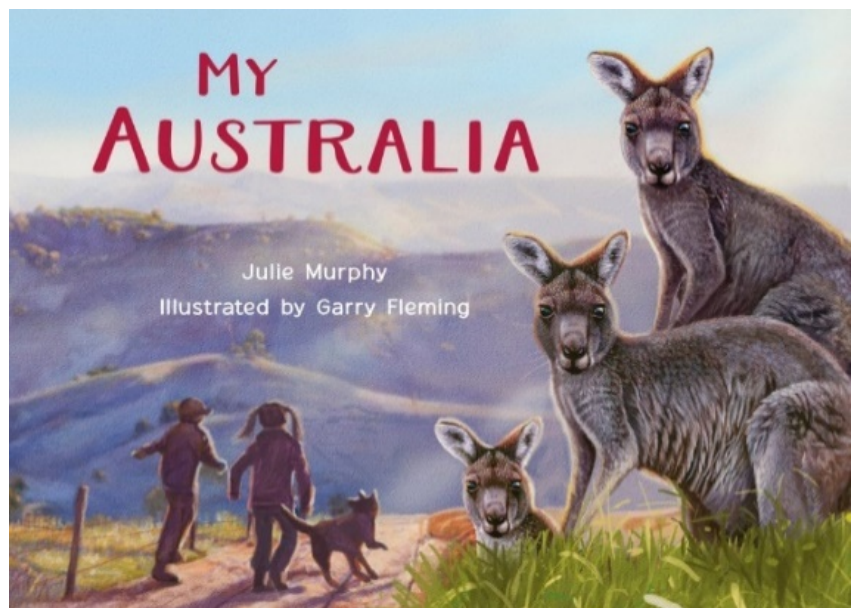
I occasionally write in rhyming verse, but more often write prose.

I have had a few animal poems

published, but I think the biggest achievement I've had with my poetry is the publication of a picture book, **MY AUSTRALIA**, written with Garry Fleming, Illustrator (National Library of Australia, 2018).

It is essentially a love poem to our Australian environment. I was thrilled when it was shortlisted for the Wilderness Society's Environment Award for Children's Literature in 2019. I also have a few other unpublished picture book manuscripts in verse waiting to find the right home.

www.juliemurphybooks.com



What type poetry do you like or create?

I mostly like to create fun verse featuring rhythm and rhyme about animals and the natural world.

LINKS to Julie’s poetry

Website : <https://juliemurphybooks.com/book/my-australia/>

List of published poems - <https://aussiekidlitpoets.wordpress.com/aussie-kidlit-poetlings/>

JENNY BLACKFORD – CONCENTRATED STORYTELLING

Poetry is concentrated storytelling, sometimes of just one moment, like this sample:

<https://youtu.be/nLUvBKtPdVM>

I write all sorts of poetry: bouncy rhymes; narrative poems set in the past, present or future; sometimes sad (or happy) poems to help me make sense of my feelings.

My best poetry hint is: always write down a word or a phrase that might turn into a poem. My second best one is: try not to write about all birds, all people, all cats. Write about one bird, person, cat at one moment.

My FOR KIDS page is

<http://www.jennyblackford.com/for-kids.html> with more poems and comments.



POW = POEM OF THE WEEK

Create a corner in the library for a bit of some

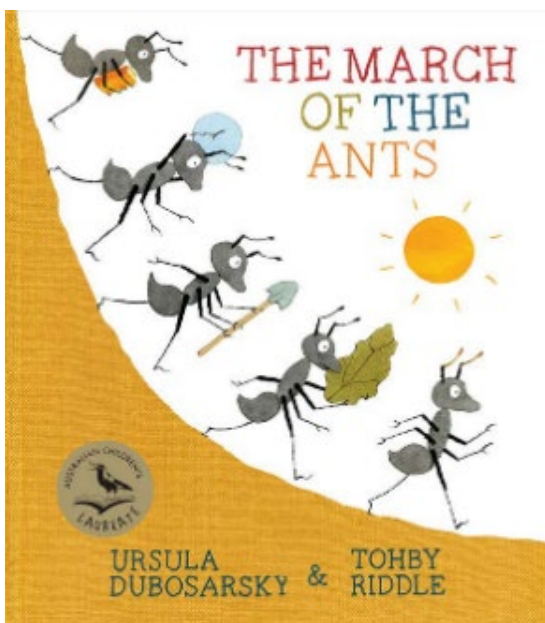
POW = POEM OF THE WEEK!

You can use your own or ask your friends to help choose a poem that is different or special.

People might like to write their comments around the featured poem.



STORIES



STORIES ARE ESSENTIAL – MARCH OF THE ANTS

FROM URSULA DUBOSARSKY
AUSTRALIAN CHILDREN'S LAUREATE

URSULA DUBOSARSKY and TOHBY RIDDLE, Illustrator,
March of the Ants (Book Trail)

Hello everyone.

It's March and the ants are marching too! I have a brand-new book coming out this month, called "**THE MARCH OF THE ANTS**", illustrated by the wonderful **TOHBY RIDDLE**.

I first wrote the story over a year ago, to read aloud at the ceremony at the National Library in Canberra, when I was announced as the Australian Children's Laureate. I knew there would be a lot of children in the audience, and I wanted to write something special for them that explained why I felt reading was so very important.



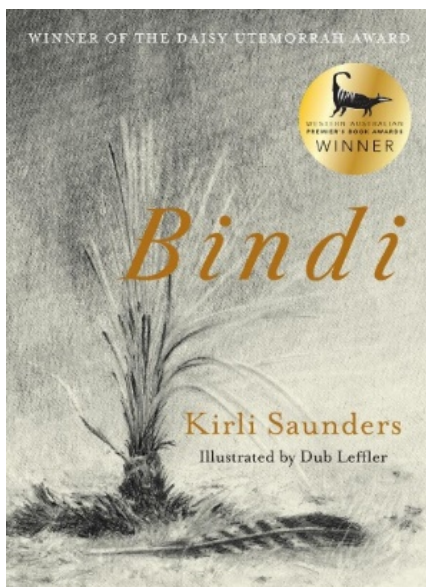
I thought of an army of tiny ants setting out on an expedition. They would have to think of all the things they would need for the journey, including – you've guessed it – a storybook! I loved watching ants when I was a child. They seemed so very brave, carrying giant breadcrumbs on their backs, patiently following the other ants in a long line until they got to wherever they were all going.

At the ceremony in Canberra some children from the audience came up on the stage with me to act in the role of the ants. You can see how much fun it was in the photo!

I am SO happy that the Book Trail Press decided they would publish my little story as a real book, with the beautiful illustrations by Tohby Riddle. When you look inside the book, you will see ants are not the only insects he has slipped into the pages.

In the meantime, everyone keep on marching! Ursula (and Magpie)

PS Don't forget to look for the special monthly writing activity for children on the Laureate website! <https://www.childrenslaureate.org.au/write-with-ursula>



VERSE NOVELS

CREATING POETRY - KIRLI SAUNDERS

I pay my respects and acknowledge the Traditional Custodians, past present and emerging of the lands, seas and skies.

Kirli is a proud Gunai Woman and an award-winning writer. Her books include widely celebrated *The Incredible Freedom Machines*, *Kindred* and *Bindi*.

BINDI – Kirli Saunders <https://kirlisaunders.com/> and Dub Leffler, Illustrator <https://www.magabala.com/collections/dub-leffler> (Magabala Press)

❖ *What you enjoy about creating poetry? (especially for your current book)*

I adore poetry, because it takes an idea and makes it tangible and accessible. Poetry allows you to see and feel what a writer is sharing, with ease. It's shorter than prose (usually) so you

can squeeze it in between all of your other favourite things! And there's so many different forms of poetry, so there's something for everyone.

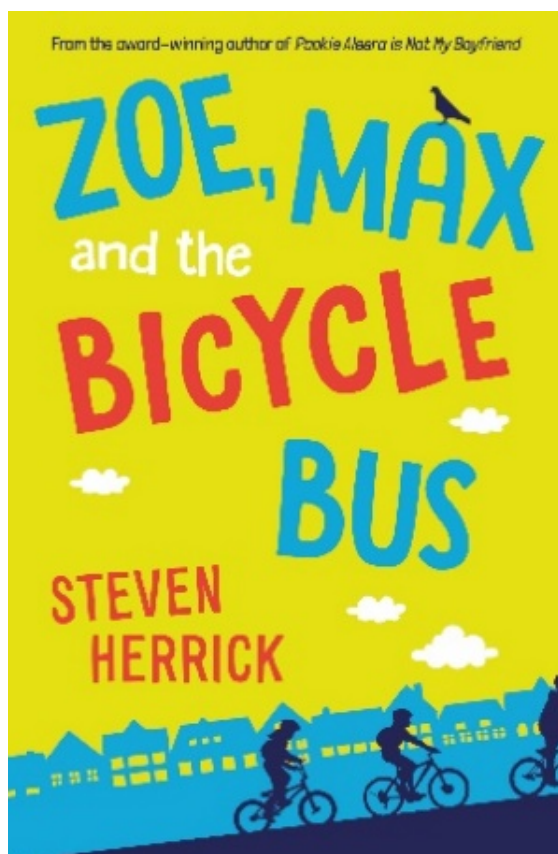
I drew on poetry to create my verse novel, **Bindi**. I wanted to create something that was succinct and expressive. I wanted my poems to be playful and reflective of Bindi's world so there's lots of shape poems, and experimental works that interweave text with illustrations (which are magical, thanks Dub!).

❖ Any hints for budding poets?

I recommend you write every day, just for the joy of it. When I get stuck with writing, I like to observe everything going on around me, and write a list of everything I can see. A friend of mine, Helena Fox (author extraordinaire) taught me to create a word association map by writing one word (it can be anything) in the centre of the page and branching off it with words that come to mind when I look at the centre one. I repeat this process branching out a word web until the page is full. Then I pick a word or phrase from these activities and write continuously for 5/10 minutes. The act of writing for the joy of it means I can create something without worrying how it will be read by others. So I can leave the editor away from my creation until I'm ready for that stage of the creative process.

Beyond writing, I'd also encourage reading and lots of adventures. I love taking a book with me on the road whenever I'm camping. The adventures to new places fuel my ideas for stories and the words of others help me to learn about people, and things happening in the world and beyond.

BIKES, VERSES and the ENVIRONMENT - STEVEN HERRICK



ZOE, MAX, AND THE BICYCLE BUS - STEVEN HERRICK (UQP)

Steven's love of bikes and his concerns for the environment feature strongly in his latest book

Zoe, Max, and the Bicycle Bus - STEVEN HERRICK (UQP)

<https://www.uqp.com.au/books/zoe-max-and-the-bicycle-bus>

Each chapter is from a different character's point of view. He has pioneered the writing of the verse novel for young adults, with over 25 books in this genre.

Zoe, Max and the Bicycle Bus is about a class of 10-year-olds in the inner city and their teacher who regularly rides her bike to school and encourages the students to follow in her path. Parents complain about

the dangers of cycling because “there is too much traffic”, as they drop their sons and daughters outside the gates, a four-wheel-drive vehicle conga-line of contradictions.

Aided by the elderly bloke who holds up the stop sign at the pedestrian crossing, the class decides to take matters into their own hands to create bike lanes for all.

My first bike was an iridescent purple Malvern Star Roadster which I christened with the name of “Jimmy” and rode everywhere. The back lanes, the fields and forests, the river paths and swamplands were far more exciting than any adventure novel or television series (or now games) because they were just a short pedal away.

Whether alone or in a group of peers, on a bicycle, we can learn independence and joy instead of hopping in a car and sitting in a traffic jam each morning. The children and their teacher in my book understand there is a better way to start their day – on a bike and in control. We could follow their example.

*This article was adapted from Steven’s article in **The Guardian**, 28 September, 2020*



**Celebrate the release of
the CBCA NOTABLES for 2021**

**Produce you own original book trailer
that features a book from the 2021
CBCA Notables list**

<https://www.cbca.org.au/notables-2021>

Open to YEARS: 3 - 4 5 - 6 7 - 8

**Details on the website
www.cbcanw.org.au**

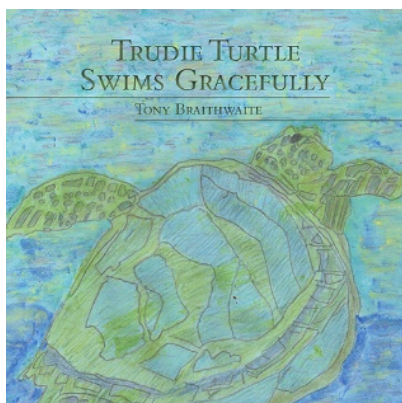
READ ON AND ON AND ON - WHAT’S NEW?

It’s great to hear about new books being released. Author and illustrator visits are also starting to take place this year. Last year’s pandemic meant that many new books had to wait to be published and events needed to be postponed.

2021 gives us a chance to catch upon friendships, stories and more. Enjoy some of the new books coming your way to read on and on.

SPECIAL CREATURES with **TONY BRAITHWAITE**

Ark House Kids arkhousekids.com



Tony's books reflect a sense of caring about nature and living beings. His youngest grandson was always asking Tony to write animal stories. Reading the books aloud, reminds both boys of times when they were shown the real animals.

tony-braithwaite.com

Trudie Turtle Swims Gracefully

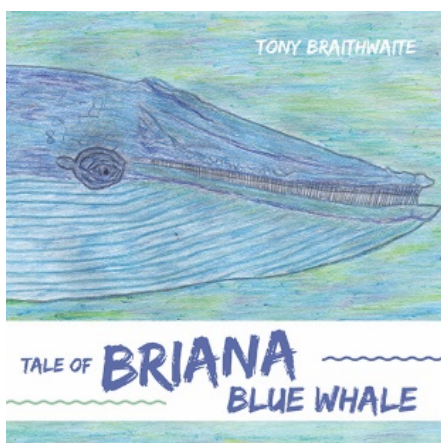
Appreciate amazing adventures of a green sea turtle and a seahorse whose

survival encourages them to help other sea creatures survive.

Mick, The Stick Insect

Discover how a green stick insect in Australia's world heritage Blue Mountains blends in his tree environment as he mimics a real tree twig to survive from annoying predators.

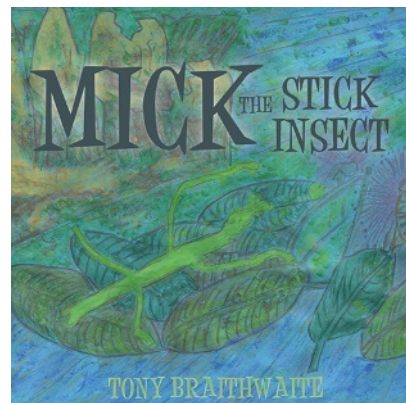
Tale Of Briana Blue Whale



Discover a gentle giant blue whale who is the biggest animal that has

lived. Their endangered status, survival from whaling and protection gives hope that animals and humans can co-exist.

I enjoy an Impressionistic art style that blends different colours - such as a "blue" sky with different shades of clouds, wind, air currents, sunshine, and shade. – **Tony BRAITHWAITE**



KAYE BAILLIE, with MAXINE HAMILTON, Illustrator

WHEN THE WATERHOLE DRIES UP (Windy Hollow Books)

It's bath time in the outback, and a dusty boy is waiting, but so are some very dusty and very cheeky animals.

Will this boy ever get clean?

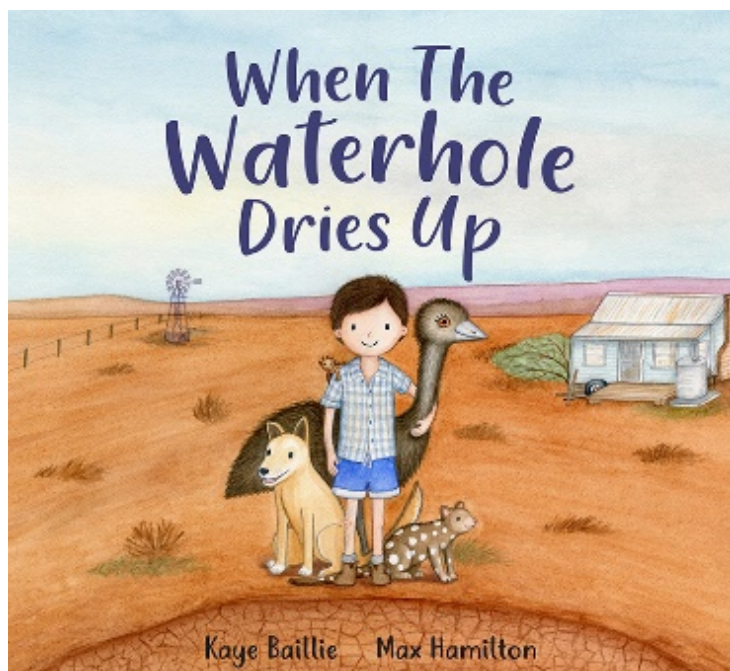
A rollicking tale about togetherness and fun!

READING

"I have been a book lover ever since I was a small child and my dad read to me most nights, fostering my love of reading.

It is such a joy to now illustrate children's books as my job!"

– **Maxine HAMILTON**

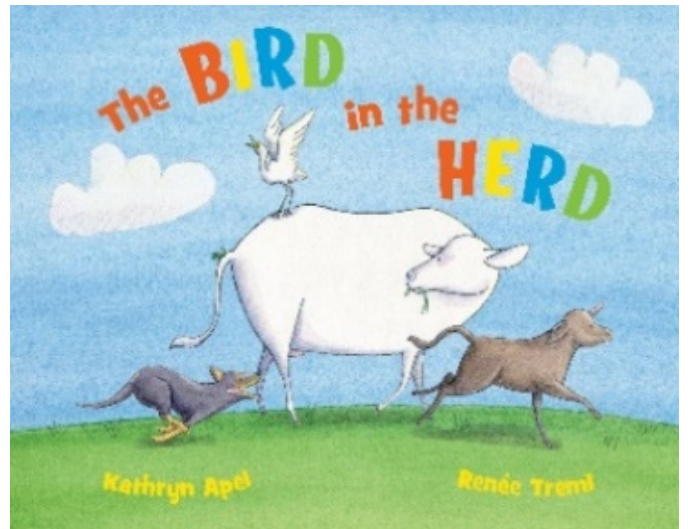


KATHRYN APEL/ RENÉE TREML – THE BIRD IN THE HERD (UQP)

*“Look! A herd of cows.
There's a bird in the herd that stalks as it walks,
eating slugs and the bugs that the herd stirred”*

Bright and playful, this ROLICKING rhyming verse picture book with gorgeous sun-soaked illustrations will have little ones hootin' and a-tootin'!

Clever use of language, repetition and rhyming grow this story along as the animals go on their way for a day on the farm.

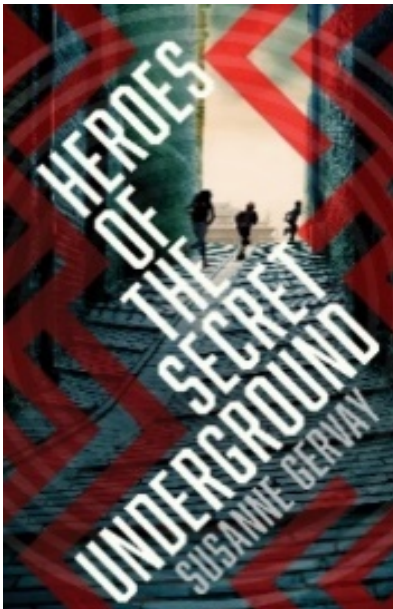


POETRY

Poetry is my voice of choice. 18 years ago I noted a bird in the herd that stalked as it walked – and I couldn't let it go! The tight rhyme catches attention, builds momentum and invites participation. Every time I read it aloud over the years, refining the rhythm/rhyme, it was like a magnet, drawing my youngest son into the room, and by my side. - KATHRYN APEL

I love Kat's use of poetry because the repetition slowly builds up the playfulness of the story and encourages little ones to read along. - RENÉE TREML

SUSANNE GERVAY



As a child of refugees, books were always a safe and special place for Susanne to explore the world and ideas. She wants that for all young people. She has travelled widely throughout Australia and the world to share her books and special characters, including *the I AM JACK* series, *THE BOY IN THE BIG BLUE GLASSES*, and more.

<https://sgervay.com/>

www.sgervay.com

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/sgervay>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/sgervay>

Instagram: https://instagram.com/susanne_gervay/

HEROES OF THE SECRET UNDERGROUND – SUSANNE GERVAY
(Harper Collins)

A secret symbol hidden in a stolen locket. A desperate race through the bombed streets of Budapest. Truths that must be unveiled. Part autobiography, history, philosophy, fantasy, this will change you forever.

Susanne's book is due for release April 7

READING

Become an adventurer through reading.

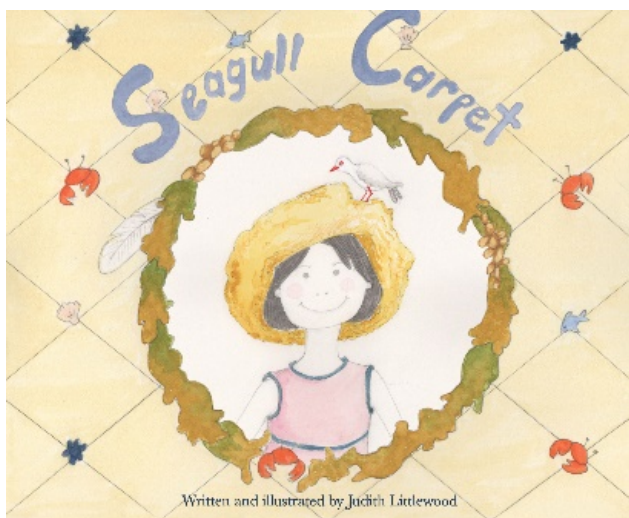
So many places to explore and imagine. - SUSANNE GERVAY

AMIE KAUFMAN AND RYAN GRAUDIN – THE WORLD BETWEEN BLINKS (HARPER COLLINS)

Cousins Jake and Marisol had no idea that a strange map and a key left from when their grandmother was still alive would strand them in a magical world of lost things - including people in history. The world between blinks constantly changes and has mysteries of histories that they must solve to get back to their families and discover what really happened all those years ago.



JUDITH LITTLEWOOD – SEAGULL CARPET Self-published and printed locally by WHO Printing in Mayfield West. I have a Facebook page titled Judith Littlewood Author and Illustrator with more details.



“Hannah’s grandma loved spending time with Hannah. They would often go on short rides in the car to have afternoon tea at interesting places. Where will they go today?”

READING

I have been a reader all of my life and I even recall my mother reading to me often when I was small. That joy has never left. It is a fabulous way to learn, experience and be transported to all sorts of locations. It’s a great way to connect with your

own self as you focus on an awesome array of subjects. Happy reading.

JUDITH LITTLEWOOD

JULIE MURPHY

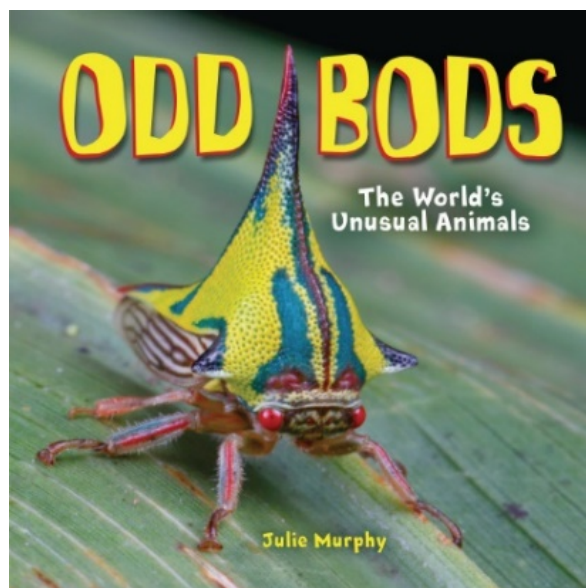
ODD BODS: THE WORLD’S UNUSUAL ANIMALS

Millbrook Press (Lerner Publishing Group)

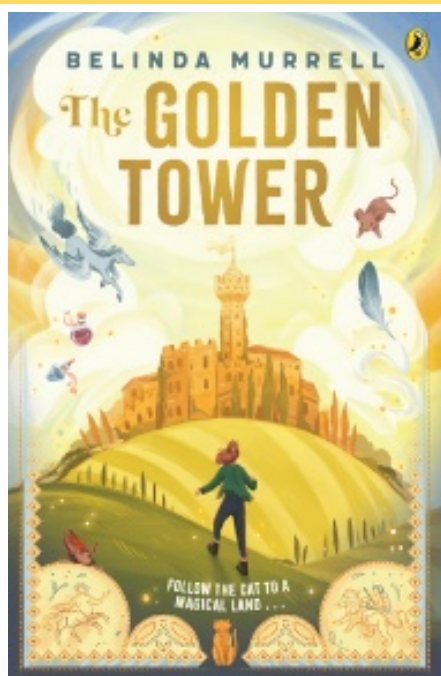
Julie is an author who enjoys promoting the value of animals and the environment to children. Before she began her career as an author, she trained in Zoology and zookeeping.

Odd Bods: The World’s Unusual Animals, Millbrook Press (Lerner Publishing Group)

Discover long snouts, bright-red lips, pointy heads . . . the animal kingdom is full of critters with unique features. Learn about the incredible adaptations that help these creatures - and their odd bods - survive and thrive all around the globe.



www.juliemurphybooks.com Lerner book page <https://lernerbooks.com/shop/show/20520>



BELINDA MURRELL <https://belindamurrell.com.au/>
THE GOLDEN TOWER (Penguin Random House Australia)

Belinda writes for all ages and has written over 35 titles including her series books: Aussie Kids, Pippa's Island, Lulu Bell, Timeslip, Sun Sword Trilogy and more.

The GOLDEN TOWER is about a girl called Sophie who is visiting her Nanna in England and accidentally stumbles into the magical land of Tuscias, following a trouble making cat. Tuscias is full of mystery, magic and wonder, flying horses and talking cats – but also danger and evil plots. Sophie can't get home until she unravels mysteries and undermines the Duchess's cruel plans. Sophie will need all the courage she can muster.

READING:

One of my favourite reasons to read is to escape. I love escaping into a completely different world, like my land of Tuscias. A world filled with danger and adventure; magical creatures; a gorgeous, exotic setting; fabulous feasts; strong, feisty characters who you really care about; and a scary villain that you can love to hate. -BELINDA MURRELL

BITS of CBCA BOOK WEEK 2021

Theme:

Old Worlds, New Worlds, Other Worlds

Dates: Term 3: August 21-27

Artwork: Shaun Tan



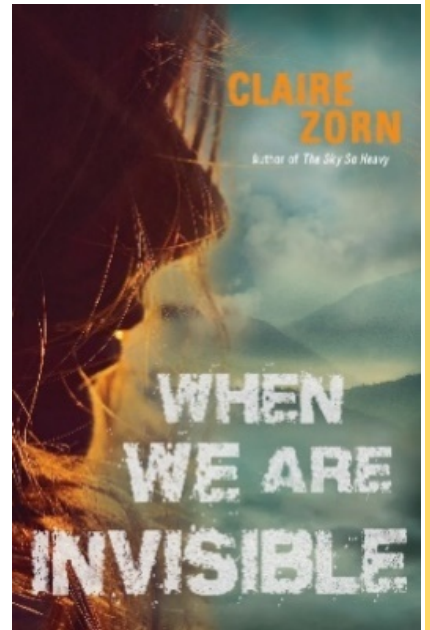
NOVA WEETMAN - THE EDGE OF THIRTEEN (UQP)

Friendships changed over the holidays. Bridge and Ellie seemed to grow up all of a sudden with boys, and bras and gossip complicating everything, leaving Clem out of the group. It all comes to a head at the school camp where even possible new friends send mixed messages and confusing signals.

CLAIRE ZORN - WHEN WE ARE INVISIBLE (UQP)

Over the years following the release of *The Sky So Heavy*, I've wondered what happened to Fin, Lucy and Max. Our world, like theirs, is a place of increasing uncertainty and I wanted to respond to this somehow.

When We Are Invisible imagines a society where everything its inhabitants have known has been taken away. I started to imagine what sort of leader they might find appealing. More importantly I wanted to view this through a young woman's eyes. It was time for Lucy to raise her voice about what a safe society should look like for girls and women – and how this is vastly different to the one she finds herself in. Due for release March 30 <https://clairezorn.com/>



READING

Reading is the perfect way for young people to build empathy because it can offer a perspective on the world which can be far different from their own. The more voices we can listen to, the better people we can become. - CLAIRE ZORN



WRITE NOW

Think of an incident, a mini-story, something that happened this week. Think of where it happened and about other people who were involved. Write five lines of how it affected you. Then, write about the incident from two other people's point of view. How did the story change?

POETRY YOU CAN COUNT ON –

LIMERICKS



A limerick is a form of verse, with a strict rhyme scheme of

A - A - B - B - A

in which the first, second and fifth line rhyme, while the third and fourth lines are shorter

and share a different rhyme.

A POEM 4 U

*There once was a mouse called
MORRIE,
Who said, "You need not worry"
For I can read
At a remarkable speed,
And for that, I am not sorry...*



**HARMONY WEEK CELEBRATES
AUSTRALIA'S CULTURAL DIVERSITY
IT'S ABOUT INCLUSIVENESS, RESPECT AND A SENSE OF BELONGING FOR EVERYONE.**

Share a sense of HARMONY with
MICHEL STREICH and *Scary Bird*, (Scholastic
Australia)

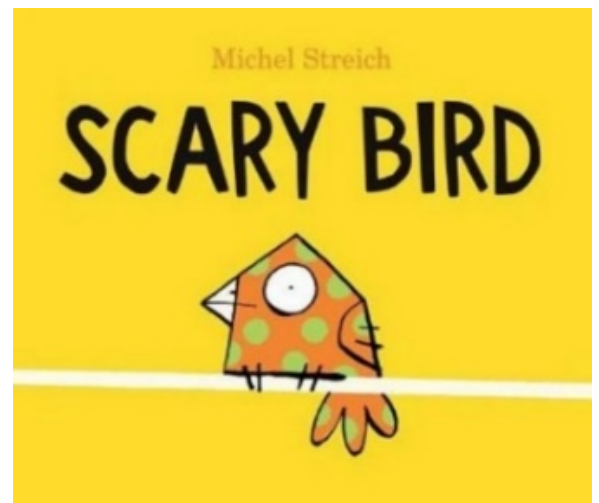
Can Scary bird fit in with others?

Can others fit in with Scary Bird?

HARMONY WEEK 2021

***Everyone Belongs* - March 15 – 21**

<https://www.harmony.gov.au/>



WRITE NOW

Convince others to make a difference.

Plan the start of a campaign or draft a poster of something you do that
others could do to make the world a better place.



Clean Up Australia Day – EVERYONE MAKES A DIFFERENCE

www.cleanupaustraliaday.org.au

**It's always the first Sunday in March – so in 2021,
the official Clean Up Australia Day will be**

SUNDAY 7 MARCH.

CBCA NSW Branch – KIDS' CORNER – March 2021 – POETRY, STORIES and BOOKS

A POEM

4 U

When MORRIE was having a sook
his mother did give him a book.
Oh how he did frown
with the book upside down,
Then flipped it and had a good look.
Terry



A POEM

4 U

MORRIE, a clever young mouse
Piled books everywhere in the house
I really love books
You should take some looks
Then we'll cheer with a hip-hip-hooray ! *Jackie*



Author and illustrator visits are starting to take place this year. Last years' pandemic meant that many books had to wait to be published and events needed to be postponed. It's exciting that 2021 is bringing us not only school visits for book creators but also lots of new books.

2021 gives us a chance to catch upon friendships, stories and more.

KC will continue to include poetry in future issues. We'd love to hear your **KC4KC - (KIDS' COMMENTS FOR KIDS CORNER)** about great books you are reading or other ideas that keep you reading, writing and thinking. Even some more MORRIE POEMS?
Happy reading always. Cheers - Morrie and Jackie

This issue of **KC** was compiled by Jackie Hawkes, with the help of LOTS of people who love reading, writing and thinking. If you have ideas to share for **KIDS' CORNER**, please contact jackie.hawkes7@gmail.com

