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Kids' Corner

April 2020

Announcing the CBCA Short List

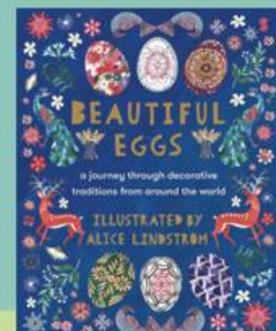


NOTABLY NSW - Part of the run-up to CBCA Book Week is recognising and sharing the new books published each year in Australia. The 2020 CBCA Notable list was based on over 517 books nominated for the CBCA Book of the Year awards. KC April includes some of the excitement of our NSW authors and illustrators who have been included for 2020.



CBCA NOTABLE BOOKS for 2020 are set in small towns and in big cities; capture worlds from the past, present and future; tell stories across the ages of Indigenous, immigrants, disabled, LGBTI+, and those with magic; and stretch our imaginations across fantasy, science fiction, mystery and more. They set the scene for Curious Creatures, Wild Minds.

Just in time for Easter, Alice shows how combining techniques in collage by painting and preparing the paper before cutting and assembling help create wonderful designs that celebrate family, culture and art.



Happy reading always - Morrie and Jackie

WELCOME TO KC FOR APRIL - Our world has been part of many changes over the past month. The Corona virus has altered where we are and how we go about our daily activities . . . But stories are always part of who we are. KC will happily continue to be part of your journey to continue to Read, Write, Think, Create and Share.



You may like to revisit ***Do not lick this book***

By **Idan Ben-Barak**, illustrated by **Julian Frost (Allen & Unwin)**.

Or check a YouTube clip https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pBzWj_ZL2KQ .

This imaginative journey through the world of microbes is full of facts about the microbes reminding us that they are such an integral and powerful part of our lives. Wash your hands, stay healthy and read good books. Cheers - Morrie

ANNOUNCING THE SHORTLIST <https://cbca.org.au/shortlist-2020>



2020 Notably NSW features the authors and illustrators on the CBCA Notables list for 2020 who are from or have had links to NSW. The full lists of the CBCA Notables <https://cbca.org.au/notables-2020> and the CBCA Shortlist <https://cbca.org.au/shortlist-2020> are found on the CBCA website.

Notable Images <https://www.cockburnlibraries.com.au/category/kids/childrens-book-week-kids/>
Shortlist images <https://twitter.com/theCbca>

Comments for each book should be attributed to the individual book creator.

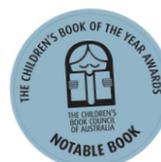
OLDER READERS - Entries in this category may be fiction, drama or poetry and should be appropriate in style and content for readers in their secondary years of schooling for ages 13-18 years. Note: These books are for the mature readers in this category and some deal with particularly challenging themes. Parental guidance is recommended.



The Surprising Power of a Good Dumpling - Wai Chim [NSW] (A&U)



- I loved writing the food scenes and thinking of all the fun dynamics of the restaurant. There's a lot of bustle and harmony, and it was great to let Anna have fun. Everyone has a Miss Kennedy in their lives! I think it's really amazing how readers can immediately pick up on who a character is from a few scenes and immediately point to their own lives. **Wai Chim** <https://www.waichim.com/>



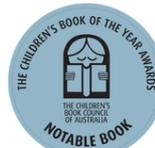
How It Feels to Float - Helena Fox [NSW] (Pan)

- I loved writing Biz's way of seeing the world-all her runaway thoughts and her funny, smart observations. I also loved having her story and mine quite organically intertwine.

I didn't know Biz had kissed her best friend Grace until the moment I wrote it down! It surprised me in a good way because I followed the path of that kiss and the story unfolded almost seamlessly from there. - **Helena Fox** <https://helenafoxauthor.com/>



The Honeyman and the Hunter - Neil Grant [NSW Central Coast part time] A&U
<http://www.neilgrant.com.au/index.htm>



Monuments - Will Kostakis [NSW] (Lothian).

-**Monuments** was all about having fun: taking all the things we expect from an epic fantasy YA novel and having them play out in the streets of Sydney. Getting to write that was like fulfilling a childhood dream. I've had the idea of hunting down gods for over a decade, but what surprised me as I was writing it was discovering those gods' 'humanity' -- the ways these ageless creatures bicker, joke and love.- **Will Kostakis** <http://willkostakis.com/>

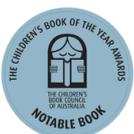


Angel Mage - Garth Nix – [VIC, Canberra, NSW] (A&U)
 Garth Nix <http://www.garthnix.com/>



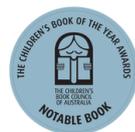
When the Ground is Hard - Malla Nunn [NSW] (A&U)
<https://www.mallanunn.com/>

YOUNGER READERS - Entries in this category may be fiction, drama or poetry and should be appropriate in style and content for readers from the middle to upper primary years for ages 7-12 years. Note: Some of these titles may only be suitable for readers who are in the upper primary years of this category as they contain mature themes, including violence. Parental guidance is recommended.



Detention - Tristan Banks [NSW] (Puffin)

-It's always good when you feel an element of fear in creating a story, when you care about it so much and you're so afraid of messing it up that you dig deep and work hard. I was surprised by how resilient both Sima and Dan were. They felt great fear, but they continued to take steps forward into the dark. I think we all need this kind of resilience and trust right now. – Tristan Banks <https://www.tristanbanks.com/>



Mr Walker and the Dessert Delight (Jess Black [NSW] illus. by Sara Acton - [NSW] (Puffin)

- Mr Walker's love of food plus the fun of the two chefs sparring creates a very warm place to inhabit. I really loved that my daughter Maggie is in this story. She was great help with ideas for the desserts! I was surprised at how important Chef Remy's kitchen and his place in the hotel community were to him. Being so upset with the arrival of celebrity chef Greta Schmidt

stemmed from a place of insecurity within him. Mr Walker and the staff made sure he felt loved and appreciated. - **Jess Black** www.jessblack.com.au

-I think this must be Mr Walker's favourite book to date. It is all about food and Labradors love food! I loved painting the cover with Mr Walker in a chef's hat and the towering French dessert. Can you think what that dessert might be? It has thirteen letters! I was surprised in this book by how many long words Mr Walker knows and particularly enjoyed drawing him figuring out the crossword puzzle! - **Sara Acton** <https://www.saraacton.org/>



Pirate Boy of Sydney Town - Jackie French [NSW] (Harper Collins)

-Some of our unknown Australian history includes pirate stories! Sydney was once a pirate port, while the Western Australian coast was a pirate hunting ground. Once you create a fictional character, they become real. Higgins' chose that last desperate gift of love and life for Ben. I never guessed, until he smiled, and slipped into the starlit sea. - **Jackie French** <http://www.jackiefrench.com/>



The Little Wave - Pip Harry (NSW) (UQP)

-I loved the freedom and creativity of writing verse for a younger audience. Originally, I intended the book to be about two boys - Noah from the beach and Jack from the bush. Somewhere in the first draft, the voice and storyline of bug-loving Lottie came to me and demanded to be included. Her arrival on the page was a complete surprise to me!
- **Pip Harry** <https://www.pipharry.com/>

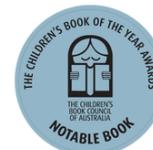


Hapless Hero Henrie - Petra James, illus. by A Yi [NSW] (Walker)

Winston and the Wondrous Wooba Gymnastics Club - Tamsin Janu [NSW] (Scholastic)

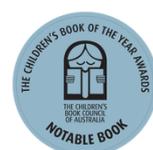
- I loved creating the town of Woobawittawoo, particularly its quirky townspeople and the local tourist attraction, the Big Bread! The character of Winston surprised me – although he's shy, and not the loudest kid in the room by any means, that doesn't stop him from speaking up about the things that are important. - **Tamsin Janu**

<http://www.tamsinjanu.com/>



The Thing About Oliver - Deborah Kelly [NSW] (Wombat Books)

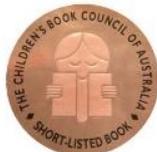
- Writing 'The Thing About Oliver' gave me a larger word count with more space to get to know my characters. My own experiences in Queensland and the special people I know and love are woven into this story. Hopefully, this will foster empathy and understanding in all children and their families. Tilly always had a very strong voice. If I tried to move her in a certain direction she resisted. She wanted to tell the story her own way and she did. I'm glad I let her! **Deborah Kelly** <https://www.facebook.com/DeborahKellyChildrensAuthor/>



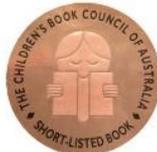
The Girl, the Dog and the Writer in Lucerne (Katrina Nannestad [NSW] (HarperCollins))

I loved writing about crimes involving chocolate. It seemed both silly and believable, because who wouldn't do something naughty for a chunk of chocky?
I was surprised at how much chocolate Frau Niederhauser ate each day. I was

envious, too! **Katrina Nannestad** <https://www.katrinanannestad.com/>



The Glimme - Emily Rodda [NSW] Illus. by Marc McBride (Omnibus/Scholastic Aus.)

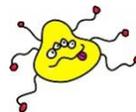


The Secrets of Magnolia Moon - Edwina Wyatt [NSW] Illus. by Katherine Quinn [NZ] (Walker)

*I enjoyed writing the "fruity" parts of the book; when Magnolia Moon asks, "If you could be a fruit, any fruit, what would you be?" I was surprised to discover that a banana is technically both a fruit and a herb! **Edwina Wyatt***
<https://edwinawyatt.com.au/>



One angry germ to another: **"You make me sick!"**



Why did the germ cross the microscope? To get to the other side

EARLY CHILDHOOD - Entries in this category may be fiction, drama or poetry and should be appropriate in style and content for children who are at pre-reading or early stages of reading. Ages 0-6 years.

Comments for each book should be attributed to the individual book creator.





The Hole Idea - Beth & Paul Macdonald [NSW] Illus. by Nathaniel Eckstro (Book Trail Press)

- I really enjoyed working with other people to create The Hole Idea. We were able to collaborate closely with the illustrator (Nathaniel Eckstrom), editors, the book designer and the printers and work together to create a wonderful book. If you look carefully when you are reading The Hole Idea you will find a little Book Worm on some of the pages. This character was a surprisingly fun addition created by Nathaniel Eckstrom when he illustrated the book. - Beth Macdonald

- Sometimes we are all stuck for ideas in our writing so we wanted to create a character who also struggled to find a story. Finnian recognised the power of the imagination and was able to create a story of his own. My favourite character in the book is Gran. Gran encourages Finnian to dig deep and her character reminds us that if we listen to other people we can get lots of ideas for our own stories. - Paul Macdonald



The Book Chook - Amelia McInerney [NSW] Illus. by Connah Brecon, (Scholastic)

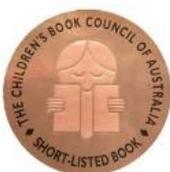
- It was so much fun to sit down and write this book every day. The characters, Ray and Janine (chickens) were so funny, and I would hear their dialogue as I kept them in my imagination as I wrote. This is why I always write funny books! - Amelia

McInerney www.ameliamacinerney.com



Meerkat Splash - Aura Parker [NSW] (Puffin)

- I always wanted to write a book about meerkats. I love the way they stand up on two legs with their little noses in the air. Nawwww! And don't get me started on the baby ones. Soooo cute! - Aura Parker www.illustrated.com.au



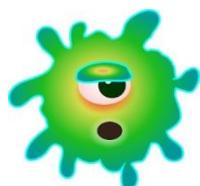
My Friend Fred - Frances Watts [NSW] Illus. by A Yi [NSW] (A&U)

- In My Friend Fred, I enjoyed trying to capture behaviours that are instantly recognisable as 'dog' – even if the reason for these behaviours is a bit baffling. But what was most fun was concealing who the narrator's identity, while A. Yi dropped clues in the pictures. Frances Watts <http://www.franceswatts.com/>



Goodbye House, Hello House - Margaret Wild [NSW] Illus. by Ann James, (A&U)

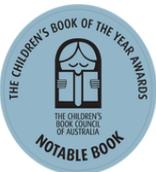
- The thing I enjoyed most about Goodbye House, Hello House was the illustrations. Ann James' pictures are so innovative, and I loved her portrayal of the child. Such great body language! - Margaret Wild



**The five second drop food on the floor germ rule:
NO WAIT! Five – four- three . . .**



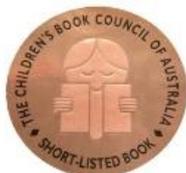
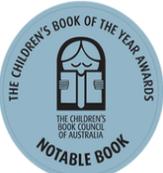
PICTURE BOOKS Entries in this category should be outstanding books of the Picture Book genre in which the author and illustrator achieve artistic and literary unity or, in wordless picture books, where the story, theme or concept is unified through illustrations. Ages 0-18 years. (NB. Some of these books may be for mature readers).



Dear Grandpa - Kate Simpson [NSW] Illus. by Ronojoy Ghosh [NSW]
<https://ronojoyghosh.com.au/Bio> (A&U) *A thing I loved about creating **Dear Grandpa** was channelling my love of science into the character of Henry. Ronojoy, the illustrator, surprised me by showing in the illustrations how much Grandpa loves science too, although this isn't in the text.* - **Kate Simpson**
<https://www.katesimpsonbooks.com/>



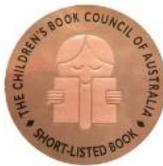
Mallee Sky - Jodi Toering [VIC], Illus. by Tannya Harricks [NSW] (Walker)
I enjoyed researching the Mallee Region before I began the illustrations for Mallee Sky. I drove from Sydney to Swan Hill (Vic) and visited all the surrounding towns taking photos, sketching and meeting locals. Many of my observations from that trip were included in the final illustrations. - **Tannya Harricks** <http://tanyaharricks.com/>



Nop - Caroline Magerl [NSW] (Walker)
I enjoyed drawing the heaps of trash and treasure at the Dumporeum, where Nop lived. Nop's unlikely friend on the last page was as big a surprise to me as to Nop. - **Caroline Magerl** <http://www.carolinemagerl.com/about-me/>



Three - Stephen Michael King <https://www.stephenmichaelking.com/> [NSW] (Scholastic)



The Good Son: A story from the First World War, told in miniature - Pierre-Jacques Ober [VIC], Illus. by Jules Ober [NSW /VIC], & Felicity Coonan [NSW] <https://www.felicitycoonan.com.au/about/> (Walker)

-My aim with photography was always to capture an emotion with each image. We worked with natural light to give a sense of actual time passing by photographing our subject at different time during the day.

I realised how engaged I was with the character of Pierre when I found it hard to face photographing the final scenes of the book. I was sad for days. - Jules Ober <https://littlesoldierstories.com/the-team/>

- The story's intent and purpose came first. I wanted to tell a human story that would not glorify war, but not be an obvious anti-war story.

What surprised me the most was Jules' ability to find the best frame, the best light to transform what could be a nice shot of a model into an image expressing the right storytelling emotion.

-Pierre-Jacques Ober <https://littlesoldierstories.com/the-team/>

-Although Pierre is a toy soldier, historic authenticity was very important to telling his story. Visual effects were used to ensure tiny details were accurate to the time. The retouching of these story frames is very similar to the work I do for movies. Stray wires, facial expressions and paint blobs help suspend disbelief and the additional effects such as smoke and explosions can bring the images to life. Felicity Coonan <https://littlesoldierstories.com/the-team/>

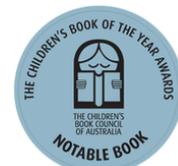


Baby Business - Jasmine Seymour [NSW] (Magabala) [Shortlist New Illustrator]

- I loved every minute of creating Baby Business. In my heart, it has always been a message about love, belonging and culture, especially for the kids (young and old) who don't know where they're from. The Nanna in the book was my wonderful Nanna who loved walking with her kids through the bush behind her place in Maraylya. - Jasmine Seymour <https://www.magabala.com/collections/jasmine-seymour>

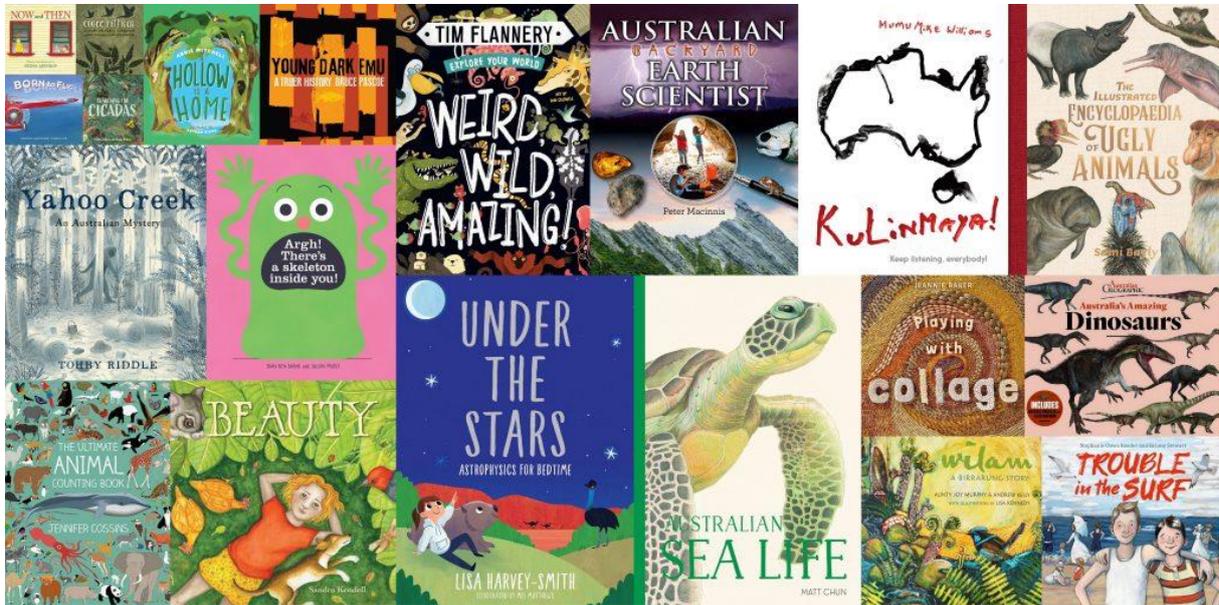


• **Queen Celine - Matt Shanks [NSW + VIC] (Walker)**
I loved going to the rock pools near home. They inspired the creatures to include in Celine's kingdom. The octopus surprised me most, she worked her way into the story accidentally but once she was there she felt just right. - Matt Shanks <http://www.mattshanks.com.au/>



One Tree - Christopher Cheng [NSW], Illus. by Bruce Whatley (Puffin)
-With all my picture books I am always amazed how illustrators are able to bring their own beautiful interpretations, adding their visual story, to my words. I adore Bruce Whatley's illustrations. I'm still stunned at how an idea (changing landscapes) that is years old is now One Tree. - Christopher Cheng <https://www.chrischeng.com/index.html>

EVE POWNALL AWARD FOR INFORMATION BOOKS Entries in this category should be books which have the prime intention of documenting factual material with consideration given to imaginative presentation, interpretation and variation of style for ages 0-18 years. Comments for each book should be attributed to the individual book creator.



Playing with Collage - Jeannie Baker [NSW] (Walker)

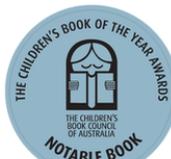
-I enjoyed experimenting and playing with found textures. I hope this book will inspire my readers and give them the confidence to play and create their own collage. - Jeannie Baker <https://www.jeanniebaker.com/>



The Illustrated Encyclopaedia of Ugly Animals - Sami Bayly [NSW] (Lothian)

-When I researched each animal I began to understand the reasons for their "ugly" features. As I painted each creature, I began to see their true beauty.

The blobfish that we know is quite different from those in their natural habitat deep in the ocean with pressure 120 times that of sea level. Its' body has evolved to survive these harsh conditions. Its features change when pulled up to land to become the strange looking fish we recognise today. – Sami Bayly www.samibayly.com



Searching for Cicadas - Lesley Gibbes [NSW] Illus. by Judy Watson [Q'land + TAS], (Walker)

-Remembering family afternoon teas under the big jacaranda tree at my grandmother's house as the summertime cicadas whizzed and buzzed above our heads is what I enjoyed most about creating Searching For Cicadas. - Lesley Gibbes <https://lesleygibbes.com/>



Under the Stars: Astrophysics for bedtime - Lisa Harvey-Smith [NSW] <https://lisaharveysmith.com/>. Illus. by Mel Matthews <https://www.meldraws.com/> [VIC]. (MUP)



Australian Backyard Earth Scientist - Peter Macinnis [NSW] (NLA Publishing)

Writing a book about earth science was fun. It took me up the Amazon River, inside a volcano, onto glaciers and into the Sahara. It also made me look at our changing climate. Humans need earth science to survive. Mine is a complex book, but it doesn't have any characters (unless you count me). - **Peter Macinnis**
<http://members.ozemail.com.au/~macinnis/writing/>



A Hollow is a Home - Abbie Mitchell. Illus. by Astred Hicks [NSW] (CSIRO Publishing)

I jumped at the chance to create a book for CSIRO Publishing. My (then) 7 year old is a junior member of the Royal Zoological Society of NSW and we are always researching animals. We took bush walks during family holidays on the south coast, and kept a running tally of the animals we saw. The most surprising animal, a Bleating Tree Frog has a super strange call that sounds as if it is in peril. It lives in hollows and had to join the others in making an appearance in the book! - **Astred Hicks** <http://designcherry.com/about-2/>

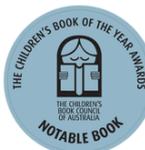


Trouble in the Surf - Stephanie Owen Reeder [NSW, Canberra] Illus. by Briony Stewart [WA] (NLA Publishing)

I enjoy playing historical detective and discovering surprising true stories like this one about Australian aviator Charles Kingsford Smith, who nearly died in the rip at Bondi Beach in 1907 when he was just nine years old! - **Stephanie Owen Reeder**
<https://stephanieowenreeder.com/>

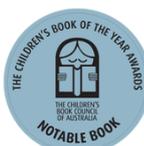


Young Dark Emu: A truer history - Bruce Pascoe [VIC + NSW] (Magabala)



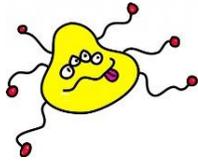
Yahoo Creek: An Australian mystery - Tohby Riddle [NSW] (A&U)

-Yahoo Creek Is the most extraordinary book I've ever worked on. It was a thrill to discover so many articles from colonial newspapers about the phenomenon of the yahoo; to be able to speak at length with Aboriginal elder Uncle Peter Williams about his perspective; to develop a new artwork technique to picture the phenomenon; and to tell a truly Australian story. - **Tohby Riddle** <https://tohbyriddle.wordpress.com/about/>



Cooee Mittigar: A story on Darug songlines - Jasmine Seymour [NSW] Illus. by Leanne Mulgo Watson (Magabala) [Shortlist New Illustrator]

-Cooee Mittigar is a call for recognition. It is a great privilege to help sound that call. This book is about celebrating the Darug People, Country, and Culture that is all around us, reminding us that Sydney is, was and always will be an Aboriginal place. Although Leanne's stunningly beautiful pictures show the journey of Mulgo, the main character, through Nura (Country), I am still surprised at what I learn from Nura daily. **Jasmine Seymour** <https://www.magabala.com/collections/jasmine-seymour>



What did the germ say after he burped during dinner?

I Chew! [Ah-Choo]



EGGS

While we often hear of decorating eggs for Easter, this practice has been part of many culture and celebrations over the years. They can be decorated with a range of materials: dyes, paints, leaves, paper, fabric, ash and more. Alice Lindstrom gives examples and background in her book, **Beautiful Eggs** (Scribble) *Cascaarones* are brightly coloured eggs filled with confetti inside which are smashed to celebrate in Mexican celebrations.



The highly expensive **Fabergé eggs** were created for the royal family in Russia between 1885 and 1917. They were often designed with gold, diamonds, ivory, jewels and intricate designs, and generally had a unique surprise inside. They are priceless and worth many millions of dollars.

<http://justfunfacts.com/interesting-facts-about-faberge-eggs/>

*The art of **carving emu eggs**, known as Kalti Paarti, became popular in the 19th century and is highly valued today. Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal artists scratch, scrape or carve away the outer layers of shell to reveal shades of blue, blue-green, brown, grey and white. Carving, decorating or selling of Emu eggs for decoration requires a license from the government. <https://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/licences-and-permits/wildlife-licences/emu-farming-egg-carving-licences/licence-carve-or-decorate-emu-eggs>*



“Easter egg” is also the term for text, images, visual gags, jokes, or other content that creators intentionally hide in media for their and their viewers' amusement. I.e. inserting a Where's Wally? in background wall-y-paper. <https://www.dictionary.com/e/pop-culture/easter-egg/>



Is there a word that contains all the vowels including Y? UNQUESTIONABLY!

Dinosaurs didn't read. Now they're extinct.

What's in the wardrobe? NARNIA your business





ANZAC DAY on April 25 focuses our respect for ANZACs past and present. It marks the date of the first major military action fought by Australian and New Zealand forces during the First World War. [ANZAC](#) stands for Australian and New Zealand Army Corps. The soldiers in those forces quickly became known as Anzacs.

Due to the current COVID-19 virus restrictions, public groups will not gather for events such as the Dawn Service or the ANZAC Marches. Australians can adapt some of the traditions that honour and remember our service men and women.

Some of the ANZAC DAY traditions can be found on the Australian War Memorial website

<https://www.awm.gov.au/commemoration/anzac-day/traditions>.

Find out:

Why do we wear a red poppy?

[https://www.awm.gov.au/learn/schools/resources/a-very-](https://www.awm.gov.au/learn/schools/resources/a-very-special-day/symbols-and-ceremonies)

[special-day/symbols-and-ceremonies](https://www.awm.gov.au/learn/schools/resources/a-very-special-day/symbols-and-ceremonies)

or ***How to make a poppy.*** <https://www.awm.gov.au/learn/schools/resources/a-very-special-day/symbols-and-ceremonies>

Australians have been involved in wars and peacekeeping throughout the world. Use a world map to find where these other countries are and research the background of each involvement.

<https://www.awm.gov.au/articles/atwar>.



READING TIME has reviews, interviews and articles related to children's literature.

A number of books have featured the ANZAC story. Check for reviews in **CBCA READING TIME** using the search term ANZAC. <http://readingtime.com.au/?s=ANZAC+>

Each book shares the importance of a character who is part of the overall ANZAC story.

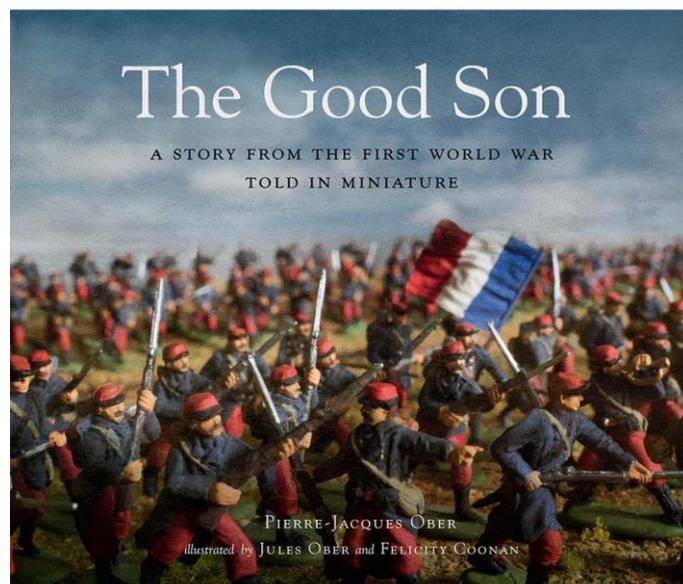
CREATING *THE GOOD SON*

– Pierre-Jacques Ober, Jules Ober and Felicity Coonan

The Good Son: A story from the First World War, told in Miniature - Pierre-Jacques Ober, Illus. by Jules Ober & Felicity Coonan (Walker), draws us into concepts of war, the photography of each scene, the actual character of each miniature and the individual people who become caught up in war.

Unique photo techniques of scale model figures convey the tragic story of Pierre, a soldier about to be court marshalled for overstaying his leave to be with his mother over Christmas. His story unfolds through images of each major incident of his story.

We wanted to tell a human story that would not glorify war or be an obvious anti-war story. We had one rule: the story had to be told with miniatures.



Creating the story - First, Pierre - Jacques created an outline of the story. Next, as we were “casting” the miniatures, each figure seemed to tell us what their role might be. The way the final story was told came from them.

Materials came from places as diverse as France, Poland, Germany, Hong Kong, Japan and the Ukraine. After building and painting, Jules and I [PJ] worked together with the photography of each frame.

Post-production of the images was done by Jules (grading, lay-out and retouching) as well as by Felicity (layout, retouching and special effects such as smoke or explosions).

The individual stories of the soldiers came from Pierre-Jacques’ imagination but were based on his extensive knowledge of World War One. While the characters are fictional, their situations are historically accurate.

Facts and figures - We worked with more than 800 figurines. They were a mix of plastic lead and resin figurines, with variations of sizes of 1/72 scale (22mm) and 1/35 scale (54mm).

The time for setting up each shot depended on the complexity of each scene. Planning for the right natural light at different times of the day influenced each shot. The night shots and the interior shots came together fairly quickly, while more simple set-ups took longer to get right.

The collaboration and creativity of each of us was crucial as each aspect of the story came to life. Our combined efforts created the historic authenticity that was very important to the telling Pierre’s story. His story reminds us to care about the individual people who are part of such events that shape our world.

THINKING OF WAR – Jules Ober (Co-creator of *The Good Son* (Walker)).



I never liked history at school. It seemed to be just a whole lot of dates to remember. And it was mostly about men killing each other in enormous numbers, without any reason I could understand.

My husband, Pierre-Jacques, has always been deeply affected by the injustices of war. When he decided to start telling his stories with his extensive collection of toy soldiers and sets, my photography and design skills were called upon!

By photographing these little plastic men. I have been able to put myself in the shoes of the young men they represent. Getting closer to them with my camera, I began to get a sense of the terrible array of emotions they experienced.

I now enjoy reading stories about war. It seems that in these extreme moments in history, we see the best and worst of human nature. We hope that by building empathy, we become better people. By not turning away, we can become stronger and more resilient in the face of hard times.



CATCHING UP WITH **URSULA DUBOSARSKY**, the new **2020-2021 Australian Children's Laureate**.

She knew she wanted to be a writer since the age of six and has written over 60 books for readers of all ages along the way.



"My job is to do everything I can to encourage children to love reading. My trusty friend the Laureate Magpie is going to help me. My slogan for the two years is "Read For Your Life."

I love reading and writing. So every month, I'll be sharing a writing idea. April explores using questions and answers to create dialogue in stories."

As well as Ursula's writing activities, there are lots of other fun downloads and videos to explore on the ACLF website.

Why not go and check it out! <http://www.childrenslaureate.org.au/>



WRITE ON - topics to help focus your personal writing

-While it may be a bit tricky to actually get your hands on some of the *Notably NSW* books at the moment, you can borrow bits of stories from the comments of the Authors and Illustrators to write your own story.

OR write YOUR response to their question: *What did you most enjoy about creating YOUR book?*

-Create a miniature world with words, picture or objects. What does it look like? Who lives there? What happened there yesterday?

-Devise a storyboard or some comic frames for Sir Scrub-a dub and Lady Wash-a-lot who live in a world with invisible forces that threaten life as we know it.

-Design an egg that has appeared from an unknown world. What creature will it hatch?

WAYS WITH WORDS

NOTABLE – what makes something *notable*? What synonyms or alternative words could you use?

Unique. Special. Alien. Beautiful. Remarkable. Memorable. . .

DIFFERENT KINDS OF GERMY BUGS

What does each one do or cause? Lurgi, Microbe, E.coli, Streptococcus, Fungus, Virus, Micro-organism, Bacteria. Others?



READING NEVER SHUTS DOWN.



If you missed the on-line video announcement of the CBCA Shortlist, catch up here

[/www.youtube.com/channel/UCxmWkzrQnc69ImBAB9kHazQ](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCxmWkzrQnc69ImBAB9kHazQ)

Check out the websites of either your favourite or even some new authors and illustrators. Many of them will have extra activities and surprises on their sites.

Books will always have *Curious Creatures*, *Wild Minds* to share with us. 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 ideas. If you have ideas to share with KIDS' CORNER, please contact jackie.hawkes7@gmail.com)