

**Middle Years 5-9**



# Books

for **Middle  
Years  
Kids**

**A Guide for Parents**



DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

The book titles and websites contained in this booklet were provided by the School Library Association of Victoria. They were carefully selected to represent a range of styles with the aim of listing readily available quality literature that can be enjoyed by young people in the middle years.

#### **Acknowledgements**

The Department of Education, Employment and Training thanks the following publishers for permission to use their book covers:

#### **Penguin Books Australia Ltd**

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*Flash Jack* Maureen McCarthy  
*Looking for Alibrandi* Melina Marchetti  
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#### **Scholastic Australia Pty Ltd**

*Rowan of Rin* Emily Rodda  
*Rowan and the Zebak* Emily Rodda

#### **Lothian Books**

*The Rabbits* John Marsden and Shaun Tan

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Published by the Office of School Education,  
Department of Education, Employment and Training,

© State of Victoria, November 2001

ISBN 0 7594 0225 6

Published by the Communications Division,  
for the Office of School Education,  
Department of Education, Employment and Training,  
GPO Box 4367, Melbourne, VIC. 3001, Australia.

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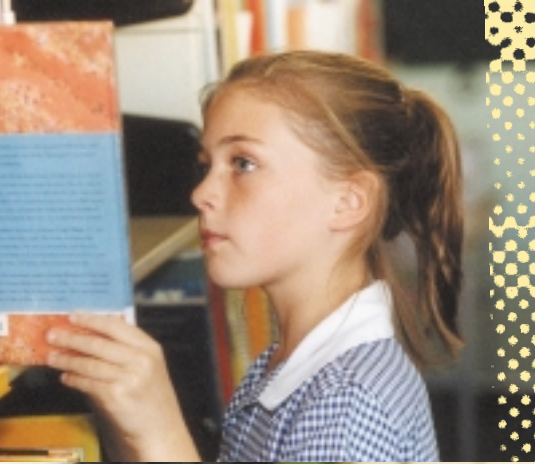
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**"There are many, many types of books  
in the world, which makes good sense,  
because there are many, many  
types of people, and everybody wants  
to read something different."**

Lemony Snicket *The Bad Beginning*  
(Harper Collins, 1999, p. 83)

**"We all read ourselves  
and the world around us  
in order to glimpse what  
and where we are.  
We read to understand,  
or begin to understand.  
We cannot do but read.  
Reading, almost as much as breathing,  
is our essential function."**

Alberto Manguel. *The History of Reading*  
(Harper Collins, 1996, p. 7)



# Middle Years

## Introduction

**Books for Kids** and **More Books for Kids** have both provided useful information for parents of children in the early years (P–4) of their schooling. This guide is designed to complement those publications and provide advice to the parents of students in the middle years (Years 5–9) of schooling.

Once young people have moved from the early years of schooling into the middle years, parents can easily wonder what part they can continue to play in their children's reading.

In the middle years of schooling, parents begin to play different roles in supporting their child's reading habits. Through an awareness of the wide range of books that young people are reading and sharing with each other, parents can encourage their children to continue their wide reading.

The books in this guide have been arranged by interest categories rather than by reading level.

The guide also contains thoughtful comments from writers of books for young people and others who have carried out research into this area.



# Reading To Find Out, Reading for Information

**Big Bangs** by Beverley MacDonald. Cartoons by Andrew Weldon (Allen & Unwin)

Riveting, humorous snapshot accounts of different explosions from the volcanoes of the natural world to the gunpowder of Guy Fawkes.

**Building the Sydney Harbour Bridge** by John Nicholson (Allen & Unwin)

In Nicholson's characteristic, passionate style he draws in the reader with fascinating facts about the 'coathanger' from a design competition to the present. Detailed diagrams are fascinating

**Crash! The Search for the Stinson** by Jennifer Beck, Dyan Blacklock, Katrina Allan (Omnibus)

This gripping, true story of the physical toughness, determination and extraordinary bush craft of Bernard O'Reilly's search for the survivors of the crashed Stinson in 1937 is told using photographs, diaries and newspaper cuttings.

**Extraordinary Stories Series** (Omnibus)

Presents popular science with titles such as *Rainbow Warrior: Battle for the Planet*, *Star Walkers: Explorers of the Unknown*, *Bone Hunters: On the Trail of the Dinosaurs* and *Wolf Children: The Real Feral Kids*.

**The Fascinating History of Lunch** by Jackie French (Angus & Robertson)

What did an Aztec kid eat in the sixteenth century? Who invented butter? When did Cornflakes become popular? and Who ate fried giant spiders?

**New Faces: The Complete Book of Alternative Pets** by Robin E Stewart (Agmedia)

Forget dogs and cats. Axolotls, silk worms, garden snails, ferrets are some of the pets suggested in this encyclopedic book that tells you everything you will ever need to know about keeping such pets.

"The world and its people is inherently interesting and having knowledge of its fascinating complexity is inherently pleasurable. The process of tracking down information and considering various interpretations of it, can be as much fun as trying to solve a puzzle."

*'Nonfiction' The Pleasures of Children's Literature*  
by Perry Nodelman (Longman, 1992 p. 178)



**Sand Swimmers: the Secret Life of Australia's Dead Heart** by Narelle Oliver (Lothian)

Oliver combines natural history with the story of Sturt's search for the inland sea and techniques of picture book illustration in an innovative text using her characteristic textured lino cuts.

**Send it to Forensic** by Peter McInnis (Longman) Slam Dunk Series

A fascinating, informative account of all areas of Forensic Science. 'Dead men don't talk but their bones do.'

**The Smallpox Slayer: One Man's Fight Against a Deadly Disease** by Alan Brown (Hodder Children's Books)

The life and work of Edward Jenner is brought to vivid life with all its gory medical detail.

**Ten Little Known Facts about Hippopotamuses and More Little Known Facts and a Few Fibs about Other Animals** by Douglas Little, Illustrated by David Francis and Donna Rawlins (Scholastic Australia)

Lots of information is packed into a funny and playful text that invites readers to question what is presented to them as 'facts'.

**The Way Things Work** by David Macaulay (Dorling Kindersley)

Everything from a door lock to a computer is carefully and closely dissected in simple text and detailed diagrams that expose the genius behind what we take for granted.

**True Stories series** (Allen & Unwin)

A series of punchy paperbacks that cover topics as diverse as surfing, soccer, love, monsters amongst others.

# Visual Texts

Why use picture books

with older children and adolescents?

“... the modern picture book is often very sophisticated offering challenges even to the adult reader ... words and pictures in combination are the most common form of communication used today, and hence warrant close attention ...”

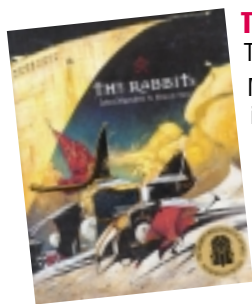
*Word and Image: Using Picture Books in Years 6 to 10*  
ed. Ken Watson (St Clair Press, 1997, p. 1)

**Fox** by Margaret Wild and Ron Brooks (Allen & Unwin)

In this sophisticated fable lyrical text, unusual design and powerful illustrations all work to tell the story and evoke its power.

**The Last Alchemist** by Colin Thompson  
(Random House Australia)

The lure of alchemy across time is given a contemporary twist in a book whose illustrations are complex and detailed and repay repeated readings.



**The Rabbits** by John Marsden and Shaun Tan (Lothian)

Metaphoric and intricately patterned this invites the reader to decide what the ‘rabbits’ represent via striking and highly constructed illustrations.

**Rose Blanche** by Roberto Innocenti (Cape)

During the second world war, a young girl shows extraordinary heroism during Nazi occupation of her town in a potent, tragic tale.

**Schnorky the Wave Puncher** by Jeff Raglus (Allen & Unwin)

Former Mambo artist Raglus celebrates individuality, subversion and above all surfing in this crazy, loopy, exuberant tale that romps and rolls across the page.

**The Singing Hat** by Tohby Riddle (Viking)

Whimsical and gently satiric, this humorous tale tells of Colin Jenkins who lives with a bird’s nest on his head. Characters’ varied responses reveal much about the human condition.

**Tuesday** by David Wiesner (Clarion Books)

Surreal and satirical describe Wiesner’s story and illustrations in this quirky tale of the invasion of a town one night by devilish, playful and subversive frogs on lily pads.

**The Watertower** by Gary Crew and Steven Woolman (Era)

Enigmatic, spooky, this book challenges the reader to decide what is really happening.

**Way Home** by Libby Hathorn and Greg Rogers  
(Red Fox, Mark Macleod)

A boy and a kitten journey through a large and threatening city on their way ‘home’. Dark images and torn pages clue the reader to the final revelation.

**The Widow’s Broom**

by Chris Van Allsburg  
(Andersen Press)

Sepia toned illustrations and striking, sculptural design accompany a sly, clever tale about magic and superstition.

**Voices in the Park** by Anthony Browne (Doubleday)

When four people enter a park, much is subtly revealed about their backgrounds and attitudes through Browne’s characteristic funny and surreal illustrations.



# Other Times, Other Realities, Other Worlds, Other Cultures

"Reading makes it easier to imagine because it opens you up to the new and unusual, and the remarkable concept that the impossible may be possible. Imagination needs input if it is to be set free."

James Moloney *Boys and Books*  
(ABC Books, 2000, p. 27)

## Other Times

**All in the Blue Unclouded Weather** by Robin Klein (Viking)

**Catherine Called Birdy** by Karen Cushman (Clarion Books)

**Hitler's Daughter** by Jackie French (HarperCollins)

**The Kin** by Peter Dickinson (Macmillan)

**The Machine-Gunners** by Robert Westall (Macmillan)

**Market Blues** by Kirsty Murray (Allen & Unwin)

**NightJohn** by Gary Paulsen (Macmillan)

**Pagan Quartet** by Catherine Jinks (OUP)

**The Pits** by Lesley Howarth (Walker)

**Red Scarf Girl** by Ji Li Jiang (HarperCollins)

**Sarah, Plain and Tall** by Patricia MacLachlan (Mc Rae)

**The Stinking Great Lie** by Catherine Jinks (Puffin)

**Strike!** by Christine Harris (Random House Australia)

## Other Realities

### Chronicles of Narnia series

by C. S. Lewis (Puffin)

### Deltora Quest

by Emily Rodda  
(Scholastic Australia)

### Earthsea Quartet

by Ursula Le Guin (Gollancz)

### The Gathering

by Isobelle Carmody (Penguin)

### Greylands

by Isobelle Carmody (Penguin)

**Hexwood** by Diana Wynne Jones  
(Greenwillow Books)

### His Dark Materials Trilogy

by Phillip Pullman (Random House)

**Prydain Cycle** by Lloyd  
Alexander (Heinemann)

### Rowan of Rin series

by Emily Rodda (Omnibus)

### The Seventh Tower series

by Garth Nix (Scholastic)

### Song of the Lioness series

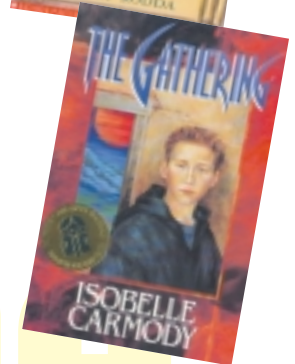
by Tamora Pierce  
(Scholastic Australia)

### The Tenebran Trilogy

by Dave Luckett (Omnibus)

**Truckers** by Terry Pratchett  
(Gollancz)

**Wind Singer** by William Nicholson  
(Random House Australia)



## Other Worlds

**The Demon Headmaster** by Gillian Cross (OUP)

**The Doorways Trilogy** by Michael Pryor (Hodder Headline)

**Eye to Eye** by Catherine Jinks (Puffin Books)

**Future Trap** by Catherine Jinks (Puffin Books)

**The Giver** by Lois Lowry (Houghton Mifflin)

**Horsehead Boy** by Rory Barnes (HarperCollins)

**A Pig Called Francis Bacon** by Stephen Measday (Mammoth)

**Space Demons** by Gillian Rubinstein (Omnibus)

**Taronga** by Victor Kelleher (Penguin)

**Titans!** by Michael Stephens (HarperCollins)

## Other Cultures

**Channeary** by Steve Tolbert (Longman)

Channeary's life is destroyed by the Khmer Rouge. After many difficulties she goes to Tasmania where an old fisherman helps her cope.

**Chickpea** by Marguerite Hann Syme (Scholastic Australia)

Hooman's family are Persian Baha'is who fled Iran after the revolution. On arriving in Australia, the two children lavish much love and care on their pets, Mina, a kitten and Chickpea, a chick. When Chickpea becomes broody and nearly dies, help from the mother of an Australian friend saves the hen.

**The China Coin** by Allan Baillie (Viking)

Joan and Leah are in China trying to trace Joan's family and find the other half of an ancient coin left by Joan's father. Leah sees for herself the horror of Tiananmen and faces the probability that her new found cousin, Ke, has died there.

**Daughter of the Wind** by Suzanne Fisher Staples (Walker)

Eleven-year-old Shabanu and her older sister are the only children of loving parents in the Cholistan Desert of Pakistan, living according to Islamic law and their own traditions.

**Goodbye Vietnam** by Gloria Whelan  
(Random House Australia)

When Mai and her family learn of government plans to arrest her grandmother, they are forced to flee Vietnam on board a boat overcrowded with refugees.

**Kiss the Dust** by Elizabeth Laird (Mammoth)

Tara's life in Iraq becomes increasingly difficult as her wealthy father's involvement with the Kurdish Resistance Movement becomes more obvious. In the refugee camp in Iran she must learn to adopt another culture's mores.

**Little Brother** by Allan Baillie (Penguin)

An exciting and frightening story about Vithy's escape from the Khmer Rouge and his search for his brother in Cambodia.

**Looking for Alibrandi**

by Melina Marchetti (Penguin)

This is a passionate and totally engrossing novel set in inner Sydney where Josie is in her last year as a scholarship student at a convent school.

**Metis, the Octopus and the Olive Tree** by Jena Woodhouse  
(University of Queensland Press)

Metis and her family move from their Greek island home to Australia.

**Mieko and the Fifth Treasure** by Eleanor Coerr (Dell)

After the atomic bomb is dropped on Nagasaki, Mieko is unable to regain the mastery of calligraphy until she discovers the fifth treasure, 'beauty in the heart'.

**No-name Bird** by Josef Vondra (Penguin)

Although the setting is the lead up to the 1975 Indonesian invasion of East Timor, this novel also looks back to World War II and forward to the guerilla war for independence.

**Secrets in the Fire** by Henning Mankell (Allen and Unwin)

Sofia, her mother, sister and younger brother escape when their father and the rest of the villagers in their Mozambique home are killed. This is the story of her fight for life and eventual return to the village.



# Off the wall

## Alternative styles

“... reading represent[s] an opportunity to explore the mind, but despite what we might prefer to think the mind is a messy place... wild untamed jungles full of strange unnamed animals, sublimated impulses, unacceptable thoughts and bizarre images ....”

Andy Griffiths in *Viewpoint: on books for young adults* 8 (2) Winter, 2000 (p. 4)

**Asterix series** by Goscinny and Uderzo (Hodder Dargaud)

‘The year is 50bc. Gaul is entirely occupied by the Romans. Well, not entirely ...’

**Remote Man** by Elizabeth Honey (Allen & Unwin)

An adventurous tale of saved wildlife and world cooperation told via email.

**The Spangled Drongo** by Steven Herrick (UQP)

Sam lives with his curry-loving Aunt Amshara (formerly Madge) and is soccer mad in this verse novel.

**Spooner or Later** by Paul Jennings, Ted Greenwood and Terry Denton (Viking)

Wacky word plays matched by equally crazy illustrations.

**The Stinky Cheese Man and Other Fairly Stupid Tales** by Jon Scieszka and Lane Smith (Viking)

Little red running shorts, the really ugly duckling and Cinderumplestiltskin reflect the loopiness of these fairy tale retellings.

**Tagged** by Gary Crew and Steven Woolman (Era)

A graphic novel concerned with the differences between war games and the real thing.

**The Adventures of Tin Tin series** by Hergé (Mammoth)

The all time favourite comic book adventures of the indomitable boy detective and his companion Snowy.

**Troy Thompson’s Radical Prose Folio** by Gary Crew and Craig Smith (Lothian)

In the sequel to *Troy Thompson’s Excellent Poetry Book*, Troy and his teacher Ms Kranke do battle over procedural texts, reports and other genres in a witty and clever mock writing folio.

**The Viewer** by Gary Crew and Shaun Tan (Lothian)

Striking, intricate illustrations evoke the shifts in reality in and outside the mysterious lens.

**When the Wind Blows** by Raymond Briggs (Hamish Hamilton)

Savage, confronting and darkly funny presented in comic format.

# Australian favourites

- AI Capsella series** by Judith Clarke (UQP)  
**Answers to Brut** by Gillian Rubinstein (Omnibus)  
**Antonio S and the Mystery of Theodore Guzman**  
by Odo Hirsch (Allen & Unwin)  
**Brocky's Bananagram** by David Metzenthien  
(Scholastic Australia)  
**Don't Pat the Wombat** by Elizabeth Honey (Allen & Unwin)  
**The First Book of Samuel** by Ursula Dubosarsky (Viking)  
**Flash Jack** by Maureen McCarthy (Puffin Books)  
**Hating Alison Ashley** by Robin Klein (Puffin)  
**Hold My Hand – or Else!**  
by Margaret Clark  
(Random House Australia)  
**Jodie's Journey** by Colin Thiele  
(Walter McVitty Books)  
**My Girragundji** by Boori Pryor and  
Meme McDonald (Allen & Unwin)  
**Nips X1** by Ruth Starke (Lothian)  
**No Gun for Asmir** by Christobel  
Mattingley (Puffin)  
**Onion Tears** by Diana Kidd (Collins)  
**Penny Pollard series** by Robin Klein (OUP)  
**Playing Beatie Bow** by Ruth Park (Nelson)  
**So Much To Tell You** by John Marsden (Walter McVitty Books)  
**Someone Like Me** by Elaine Forrestal (Puffin)  
**Storm Boy** by Colin Thiele (Rigby)  
**Surfing Mister Petrovic** by Colin Bowles (Penguin Books)  
**Walking Through Albert** by Margo Lanagan (Allen & Unwin)  
**Wayne series** by David McRobbie (Heinemann)



# Other favourites

- The BFG** by Roald Dahl (Cape)  
**Bridge to Terabithia** by Katherine Paterson (Gollancz)  
**Charlotte's Web** by E. B. White (Hamish Hamilton)  
**Chinese Cinderella** by Adeline Yen Mah (Puffin)  
**Dacey's Song** by Cynthia Voigt (Fontana Lions)  
**The Eighteenth Emergency** by Betsy Byars (Puffin)  
**Ella Enchanted** by Gail Carson Levine (HarperCollins)  
**Flour Babies** by Anne Fine (Hamish Hamilton)  
**A Girl Named Disaster** by Nancy Farmer (Dolphin)  
**Hatchet** by Gary Paulsen  
(Macmillan)  
**The Haunting** by Margaret Mahy  
(Dent)  
**The Hobbit** by JRR Tolkien  
(Unwin Hyman)  
**The Illustrated Mum** by Jacqueline  
Wilson (Corgi Yearling)  
**Little House on the Prairie series**  
by Laura Ingalls Wilder (Penguin)  
**Maphead** by Lesley Howarth (Walker)  
**Number the Stars** by Lois Lowry (Houghton Mifflin)  
**Secrets in the Fire** by Henning Mankell (Allen & Unwin)  
**The Sheep Pig** by Dick King Smith (Gollancz)  
**Slake's Limbo** by Felice Holman (Scribner)  
**Tanith** by Sherryl Jordan (Omnibus)





# Humour

"Humour is almost always  
disruption of expectation ...  
A moment of humour – either the physical  
or the metaphorical banana skin –  
is a reminder that ...  
things can, in the blink of an eye,  
be turned on their heads.  
I sometimes think that laughter is that  
child part of us that has always known this  
and has never bought the notion that  
everything can be rational and predictable.  
Laughter is the cry of recognition  
from that child part of us."

Morris Gleitzman in  
*Books Up Front: investing in the value of reading*  
(SLAV, 2001, p. 124)

## A Series of Unfortunate Events series

by Lemony Snicket (HarperCollins)

**Adults Only** by Morris Gleitzman  
(Penguin Books)

**Artemis Fowl** by Eoin Colfer  
(Penguin Books)

**Cairo Jim series** by Geoffrey  
McSkimming (Hodder Headline)

**Deadly!** by Paul Jennings and Morris  
Gleitzman (Penguin Books)

**Deadly Unna?** by Phillip Gwynne  
(Penguin Books)

**Feeling Sorry for Celia**  
by Jaclyn Moriarty (Pan Macmillan)

**45 and 47 Stella Street and  
Everything That Happened**  
by Elizabeth Honey (Allen & Unwin)

**Ghost Byte** by John Larkin (Random House Australia)

**Granny** by Anthony Horowitz (Walker)

**Guitar Highway Rose** by Brigid Lowry (Allen & Unwin)

**Hating Alison Ashley** by Robin Klein (Penguin Books)



**I Hate Fridays!** by Rachel Flynn (Viking)

**Just Crazy!** by Andy Griffiths (Pan Macmillan)

**Living with Leanne** by Margaret Clark (Random House)

**Madame Doubtfire** by Anne Fine (Hamilton)

**Matilda** by Roald Dahl (Puffin Books)

**My Life as a Wedgie** by Gretel Killeen  
(Random House Australia)

**My Name Is Will Thompson** by Robert Newton (UQP)

**Rude Health** by Linda Aronson (Pan Macmillan)

**Selby series** by Duncan Ball (Angus & Robertson)

**Spybabies** by Ian Bone (Lothian)

**Staying Alive in Year Five** by John Marsden (Piper)

**The Stinking Great Lie** by Catherine Jinks (Puffin Books)

**Swashbuckler** by James Moloney (UQP)

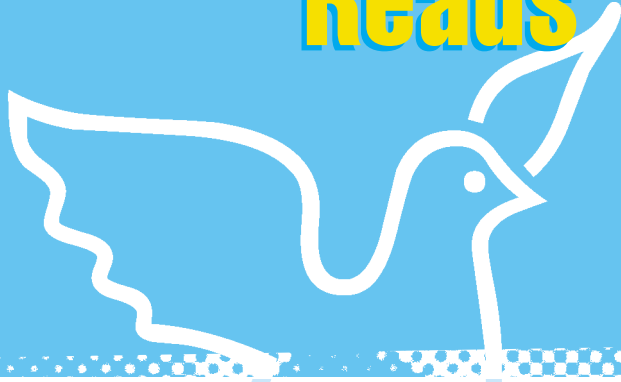
**The Underdog** by Markus Zusak (Omnibus)

**Titans!** by Michael Stephens (HarperCollins)

**Unseen** by Paul Jennings (Penguin)

**Wicked!** by Paul Jennings and Morris Gleitzman (Penguin)

# Thoughtful Reads



“Reading a novel is an act of the imagination. It is the second half of the creative act, of which only the first half was performed by the writer.”

Peter Dickinson

“Reading, for me, is a means of thought. One way of saying this is literature gives us images to think with.”

Aidan Chambers *The Reading Environment* (Thimble Press, p. 14)

**A Bridge to Wiseman's Cove** by James Moloney (UQP)

Carl's journey to self acceptance after his mother's abandonment is powerfully told.

**The Changeover** by Margaret Mahy (Dent)

In this supernatural romance, Laura must accept the metaphysical to save her younger brother.

**The Colour of Sunshine** by David Metzenthen (Puffin)

Tragedy fleetingly connects two families of battlers in this touching story.

**The Giver** by Lois Lowry (Houghton Mifflin)

In a perfect world, everyone has their place and happiness – or do they?

**His Dark Materials Trilogy** by Phillip Pullman (Knopf - Random House)

Based on Milton's *Paradise Lost*, this vast, highly original and gripping trilogy goes where angels fear to tread.

**Gilbert's Ghost Train** by David Metzenthen (Scholastic)

The death of a sibling is dealt with through the use of the metaphysical in this fine story.

**Holes** by Louis Sachar (Farrar, Straus and Giroux)

Stark realism and fairytale mix in this story of harsh deserts, holes in the ground and onions.

**The Listmaker** by Robin Klein (Viking)

Poignantly told and full of humour and keen insight this story tells of Sarah and her desperation to belong in her father's new relationship.

**Pagan Quartet** by Catherine Jinks (Omnibus)

Twelfth century Europe is evoked vividly and with a wicked sense of the absurd in this tale of the irrepressible Pagan.

**Skellig** by David Almond (Hodder Headline)

'He was lying there in the darkness behind the tea chests, in the dust and dirt. It was as if her had been there forever. He was filthy and pale and dried out and I thought he was dead. I couldn't have been more wrong.'

**Tuck Everlasting** by Natalie Babbitt (Farrar, Straus and Giroux)

Drinking from the spring has given the Tucks eternal life which has been a secret until the day eleven year old Winnie enters their lives, in this story of classic status.

# Breathless Reads

**After Dark series** (Lothian)

**Alien Zones series** by Brian Caswell (UQP)

**Big Night Out** by Judith Clarke (Omnibus)

**Blackout** by Michael Pryor (Hodder Headline)

**Boyz 'R Us** by Scott Monk (Random House Australia)

**Cool School** by John Marsden (Pan Macmillan)

**The Crush** by Scott Monk (Random House Australia)

**Deltora Quest** by Emily Rodda (Scholastic Australia)

**The Electric Kid** by Garry Kilworth (Bantam)

**Fortress** by David Harris (Penguin)

**Gaz series** by Warren Flynn (Fremantle Arts Centre Press)

**I Love You, Jason Delaney** by Judith Clarke (Angus and Robertson)

**In It Up to Here!** by Jim Schembri (Longman)

**Killer Boots** by Wendy Jenkins (Fremantle Arts Centre Press)



“When I sat down to read I wanted entertainment, surprise and fun ... I was not interested in learning helpful lessons about life ... or reading about other people’s problems.”

Andy Griffiths in  
*Viewpoint: on Books for Young Adults*  
(Winter, 2000, p. 3)

“Sure, surfing, football, girls, your ‘outside school’ life is important – but there is always still some time in your life to read – reading does not have to be your life or define you ... Reading offers a door; you can walk in, walk out, everything is gained, nothing lost.”

David Metzenthen in  
*Viewpoint: on Books for Young Adults*  
(Winter, 2000, p. 8)

**The Last Shot** by Allan Baillie (Omnibus)

**Merryl of the Stones** by Brian Caswell (UQP)

**Moxiana** by Michael Stephens (HarperCollins)

**Roadie** by David Metzenthen (Omnibus)

**See How They Run** by David McRobbie (Puffin)

**Sink or Swim** by Ron Bunney (Fremantle Arts Centre Press)

**Swampland** by SR Martin (Scholastic Australia)

**Space Demons** by Gillian Rubinstein (Omnibus)

**The Spangled Drongo** by Steven Herrick (UQP)

**Tomorrow series** by John Marsden (Pan Macmillan)

**Tough Stuff** by Kirsty Murray (Allen & Unwin)

**Western Wild Cat series** by John Larkin (Hodder Headline)

**Wild Magic series** by Tamora Pierce (Scholastic Australia)

**With My Knife** by Andrew Lansdowne (Omnibus)

**The World of Adventure series** by Gary Paulsen (Dell Publishing)

# Web sites

# WWW

## General sites

### Needle in a CyberStack

Children's and young adults Literature on the Web

<http://members.home.net/albeej/pages/KidLit.htm>

A huge collection of literary links including book award sites, book reviews and author sites for children and young adults

### ACHUKA

Children's books

[www.achuka.co.uk/index2.html](http://www.achuka.co.uk/index2.html)

Provides extensive information and links on children's literature in the UK. Includes topical issues, articles and award links.

## Australian

### Focus on Fiction

Education Department of Western Australia

[www.eddept.wa.edu.au/centoff/cmis/eva/fiction/](http://www.eddept.wa.edu.au/centoff/cmis/eva/fiction/)

Extensive range of material on Australian literature and links.

## Activities

### The Read In

[www.readin.org/](http://www.readin.org/)

Established to promote reading across all ages (P-12) and includes an optional on line interactive component.

## Award winning and Notable Books

### Children's Book Council of Australia

[www.cbc.org.au](http://www.cbc.org.au)

Information on Book Week and the Australian Children's Book of the Year Awards.

### YABBA

Young Australian's Best Book Award

<http://home.vicnet.net.au/~yabba/>

Established in 1985 to promote Australian children's fiction YABBA gives readers the chance to have their say on the best book of the year.

### United Kingdom

#### Library Association Medals and Awards

[www.la-hq.org.uk/directory/medals.html](http://www.la-hq.org.uk/directory/medals.html)

Current and past short lists of the Carnegie Medal (fiction) and the Greenaway Medal (illustration).

### United States of America

#### ALSC

Awards and Notables

[www.ala.org/alsc/awards.html](http://www.ala.org/alsc/awards.html)

Created by the Association for Library Services to Children (ALSC), a division of the American Library Association, this site provides extensive coverage of North American award winners.

# Contact organisations

**“What children learn with books is a whole initiation into such matters as: how do you know whether you’re reading a story or a factual report, how do you know if someone in a story is telling the truth, how do you learn to play an author’s game of being tricked by red herrings, seduced by charmers, repelled by the wicked and much, much more. In fact, most, if not all, the reading we do as adults rests on the bedrock of having learned as children the devices and techniques of narrative that have been developed over thousands of years in literature.”**

Michael Rosen in *The Reading Solution*  
by Paul Kropp with Wendy Cooling (Penguin, 1995)

## **Australian Centre for Youth Literature**

A year long extensive program of events aimed at promoting youth literature within Australia.

Manager: Agnes Nieuwenhuizen Ph: 8664 7276

State Library of Victoria

328 Swanston Street, Melbourne, 3000

Program Coordinator Cathy Mulcahy

Ph: 8664 7014

Fax: 9639 4143

Email: acyl@slv.vic.gov.au

[www.slv.vic.gov.au/acyl/](http://www.slv.vic.gov.au/acyl/)

## **Dromkeen Children’s Literature Collection**

An amazing collection of both contemporary and historical Australian illustrations. Regular family days, workshops and structured school programs available.

1012 Kilmore Road, Riddells Creek, 3431

Ph: 5428 6799

Fax: 5428 6830

Email: dromkeen@scholastic.com.au

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

## **Children’s Book Council of Australia (CBCA) Victorian Branch**

PO Box 275, Carlton South, 3053

Ph: 9349 3111

[www.cbc.org.au](http://www.cbc.org.au)

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## **Young Australians Best Book Award**

The Victorian children’s choice award. Based on popular, Australian fiction the YABBA Council coordinates a ceremony each year to present awards to the most popular children’s authors as voted by the children themselves each year.

PO Box 238, Kew, Victoria 3101

Email: yabbabooks@yahoo.com

[www.vicnet.net.au/~yabba/](http://www.vicnet.net.au/~yabba/)

## **Books Illustrated Gallery and Bookshop**

Specialising in children’s books this wonderful book shop also contains a gallery of original illustrations that changes regularly.

Gasworks Park, 15 Graham Street, Albert Park, 3206

Ph: 9696 0947

Fax: 9696 0893

Email: info@booksillustrated.com.au

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

## **Melbourne Writers Festival – Youth Literature Days**

A part of the annual Melbourne Writers’ Festival these days feature a number of interesting speakers and events for young people.

CUB Malthouse, Sturt Street, Southbank

Festival office

Ph: 9645 9244

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

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# You can find out more by...



Visiting your local library  
[www.librariesvictoria.net/](http://www.librariesvictoria.net/)  
Phone: 1300 362 292

**Libraries are busy and vibrant places, with individuals and family groups browsing among the bookshelves, selecting and reading books and magazines, discussing their favourite reading material and researching on the internet for their own personal learning or for school projects.**



Contacting your child's school librarian



Browsing the Middle Years website at  
[www.sofweb.vic.edu.au/mys](http://www.sofweb.vic.edu.au/mys)



Telephoning Education Line on  
**(03) 9637 2222** or **1800 808 834**



Accessing translations of this booklet in  
languages other than English from  
[www.sofweb.vic.edu.au/mys/](http://www.sofweb.vic.edu.au/mys/)

**This book is one of a series of information booklets for the parents of students in the middle years of schooling.**



Department of  
Education,  
Employment and Training