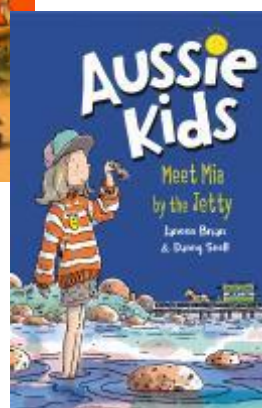
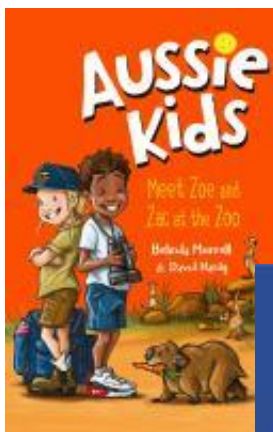


Aussie kids: Meet Zoe and Zac at the Zoo

By Belinda Murrell

Reviewed by Sally



Meet Zoe and Zac, they live at the zoo in Dubbo NSW, or Mia she lives near the beach in South Australia, and join them and six other kids one from each state or territory in Australia for a day of fun in their local area. Whether it is feeding the animals at the zoo in Dubbo, or catching fish in the mangroves you will be treated to a taste of life in different parts of our wonderfully diverse country. Each book has a different author and illustrator who has drawn on personal experiences and

local knowledge to intertwine true places and facts. Each book also fun facts in the back about the animals, locations or activities undertaken within the story.

Great new series for emerging readers, I found them educational, fun and enjoyable.

You will find this book in the I can Read level 3(green) section filed under

Interested in this title? Check out the library [catalogue](#).

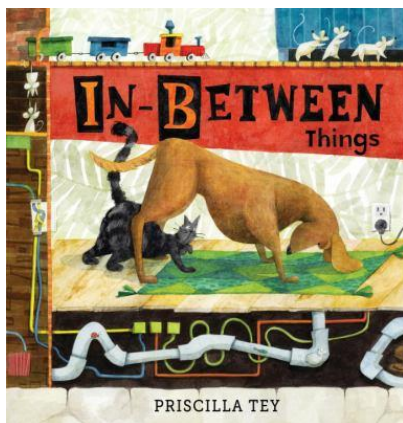
Other books in the series



In-Between Things

By Priscilla Tey

Reviewed by Sally



This is a super fun story.

Between inside and outside, between upstairs and down, a world of in-between things can be found.

With humorous rhyming text, this story manages to explain a difficult concept of in-between things. The book has beautifully detailed illustrations that provide lots of extras to entice kids. The more they look, the more they find of in-between things that help them to understand the concept in a fun way.

Written and illustrated by Priscilla Tey, *In-Between Things* is her first children's book.

I'm sure it will be a favourite with both kids and parents

An excellent picture book for ages 3+ years

You will find this book in the picture book section under T.

Interested in this title? Check out the library [catalogue](#).

Jasper and Scruff – Hunt for the Golden Bone

By Nicola Colton

Reviewed by Sally



Jasper is a smart kitty who likes the finer things in life, while Scruff is a mucky pup who likes the simpler things. These unlikely best pals have opened a bookshop together, Jasper's lifelong dream. When a mysterious package of a rare book arrives and a treasure map slips out, the friends set off on a treasure hunt to find the infamous Golden Bone. As the two friends work together to solve the mystery, foul play is afoot.

A fun story for emerging readers with mystery, adventure, a pirate, and a chance to outsmart the no-good Lady Catterly and the sophisticats. It's got it all. The book is complimented by comical illustrations and kids should get a bit of a laugh from this one.

A good story for emerging readers. Age 5-9

You will find this book in the - I can read level 3 (green) section.

Interested in this title? Check out the library [catalogue](#).

Make Yourself at Home By Signe Torp

Reviewed by Mala



Make yourself at Home is a stunningly illustrated nonfiction book showing us how children live all around the world. With a format that melds nonfiction information with a picture book format we enjoyed reading this book at bedtime over a couple of nights. The book introduces us to ten different children and their unique homes. Amazingly detailed foldout pages show us cross sections of a castle in Germany and an English canal boat. There is so much to explore in the pictures, and we loved choosing which bedroom we would sleep in in the different houses, especially in the castle! We learnt lots of interesting facts about how houses are designed to suit the weather, landscape and available materials in different countries.

Make Yourself at Home will appeal to preschoolers right through to kids in upper primary as it is so interesting to see the ways children live all around the world.

You will find this book in the People and places section filed under – J728/TOR

Interested in this title? Check out the library [catalogue](#).

Rise of the Mythix -#1 The Golden Unicorn #2 The Mighty Minotaur By Ahn Do

Reviewed by Sally



Ahn Do is a great story teller. This series is not funny like most of Ahn Do's other series but it is a classic story of the fight between good and evil. For any kid who enjoys Percy Jackson and mythical monsters this will appeal. I am waiting for the release of the final part *The Griffin*.



The evil overlord William James holds the entire kingdom hostage and collects the souls of anyone or anything he considers beautiful, a problem, a troublemaker or simply displeases him. The ancient prophecies say that three will rise and overthrow his rule, so he will not stop until he captures the ancient beasts. Kelly swift is the first to mysteriously grow a unicorn horn, which gives her the power to read others thoughts and have incredible speed. Kelly doesn't know why this is happening, but what she does know is that these unique powers will draw the attention of the evil overlord and his army the KG. Stanley, 'William James' chief archaeologist, the man who has discovered the ancient prophecies, seeks out Kelly and together they narrowly escape capture. The story continues with book 2 *The Mighty Minotaur*, Kelly must learn to trust and work with Stanley, harness her powers and find Minh the mighty Minotaur. Book 2 follows the challenges Kelly faces as she searches to find Minh.

I suggest you read this series in order.

Great series for middle primary readers. Ages 9-13

You will find this book in the Children's series section filed under RIS
Also available on E Book.

Interested in this title? Check out the library [catalogue](#).

The BUSHFIRE Book
How to be aware and prepare.
By Polly Marsden

Reviewed by Sally



A practical and reassuring guide to bushfire for kids so they can be prepared, not scared. This book is written like as a story, but still filled with facts. Its beautiful illustrations and simple text make it so easy to read. A great way for kids to learn what to do and how to do it and cope with any stress or fears associated with bushfires. I highly recommend this book for all parents and kids to read before our next bushfire season starts.

Current web address for Bushfire plans, fire weather services and wildlife care are included at the back of the book.

An excellent nonfiction picture book for ages 4+ years

You will find this book in the Early Learning section

Interested in this title? Check out the library [catalogue](#).

The List of Things that will not Change

By Rebecca Stead

Reviewed by Sally



The List of Things That Will Not Change is a beautifully written, reassuring story that I think all kids will love, from the award-winning author Rebecca Stead.

The story is told through the voice of the main character Bea, a 10 year girl who is faced with the news that her parents are getting divorced. When she is told this news by her parents, they give her a special notebook, to alleviate any fears of the changes that are about to confront her. A notebook to write a list of things that will not change, and the top of the list is “mum and dad will always love me”.

Bea recounts the story and covers the events from her parents’ divorce when she was 8 years old to the present, her father’s wedding to his boyfriend Jesse. Bea lives with both her mum and her dad on different days of the week and enjoys having two rooms, a cat at mums and a dog at dads. Bea is excited about a wedding and the knowledge that she will now have stepsister the same age, just as she has always wanted.

Through the story Bea must face up to her fears and reveal a secret she has been keeping since last summer, learn about building relationships and discover the good and sad sides to families.

The story evokes all your emotions, teaches you about being true to yourself, developing the resilience to grow and reassurance to face change. It covers the topical social issue of gay marriage in an excellent way.

I really enjoyed this story, and recommend it. Ages 8-13

Also available as an E book

You can find this book in the Children’s stories section, filed under – Stead, R.

Interested in this title? Check out the library [catalogue](#).

The Pirates are Coming By John Condon

Reviewed by Sally



This is a fun story that is a fantastic twist on the classic boy who cried wolf story. The illustrations and the story are hilarious. Tom is a young boy and the village lookout, who yells “the pirates are coming” for everything he sees. The villages soon grow tired of hiding, but what will happen when the pirates are really coming?

A book worth reading just for the twist at the end, for everyone not just those who love pirates.

One not to be missed.

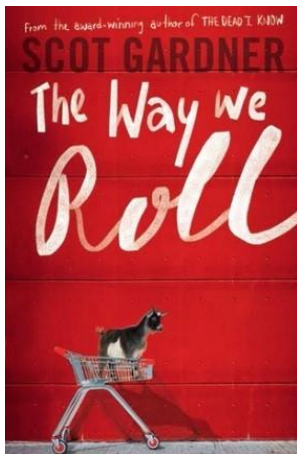
This title has just been added to the current NSW PRC reading list.

Ages 4+

Interested in this title? Check out the library [catalogue](#).

The Way we Roll By Scot Gardner

Reviewed by Sally



I love Scot Gardner's books; they are always real and a bit gritty, this one is no exception. *The Way We Roll* highlights the social problem of homelessness and family issues that are faced by more teenagers than we think for whatever reason every day in our community.

This is the story of Will and Julian, who work as trolley boys at the local supermarket and form a friendship when they join forces against a group of hoons that repeatedly terrorise fellow trolley workers.

Will went to a private school and is very secretive, keeping his life and his homeless circumstances to himself, while Julian is a bit of a bad boy who lives in his family's pool house and just chills with life. As Will's past slowly catches up with him, he is forced to face his problems head on. Thinking he can do it alone; he soon discovers through Julian and his family what real friendship and family are all about.

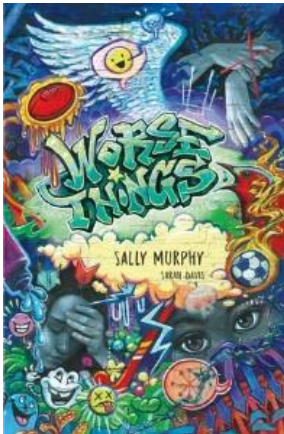
A great story for 13-16 year aged boys.

You will find this book in the Young Adult section filed under – Gardner, S

Interested in this title? Check out the library [catalogue](#).

Worse Things By Sally Murphy

Reviewed by Sally



Worse Things is the latest book published earlier this year by one of Australia's favourite authors.

Written completely in verse, *Worse Things* tells the story of three separate characters, Blake, Jolene and Amed, who due to very different circumstances are all experiencing a sense of exclusion and loneliness. I am in awe as to how these three storylines came together to form such a forceful complete story of finding and forming friendships in unexpected ways.

Blake is the cool, team star Aussie rules player, who is sidelined with a broken arm. Jolene loves reading and studying English at school but hates being in hockey team, even though she is the star. Amed is a refugee who has come to live in Australia with his aunt after his parents and family were killed in war. Amed arrives in Australia with only Basic English, and is alone at school. He watches the sports played by the others kids from afar but doesn't understand the rules and every day hopes to make a friend.

The story highlights many powerful emotions and shows that connections can be made in unexpected places and outside the regular comfort zone. It encourages kids to be more aware of others and adopt a more inclusive attitude, to remember that things are not always as they seem, and getting to know others will often expose common interests and similarities. Underneath everyone craves for acceptance and inclusion for a sense of belonging.

I really enjoyed this story, it would be a great read for upper primary and especially boys who are reluctant to read a longer story.

Ages 10-14

You will find this book in the Children's stories section filed under – Murphy, S

Interested in this title? Check out the library [catalogue](#).

