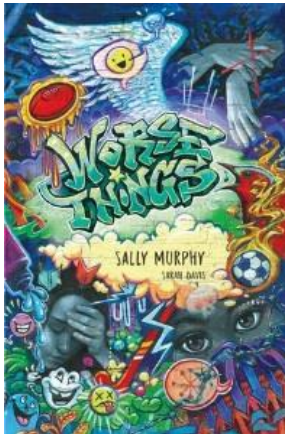


Worse Things By Sally Murphy

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

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