

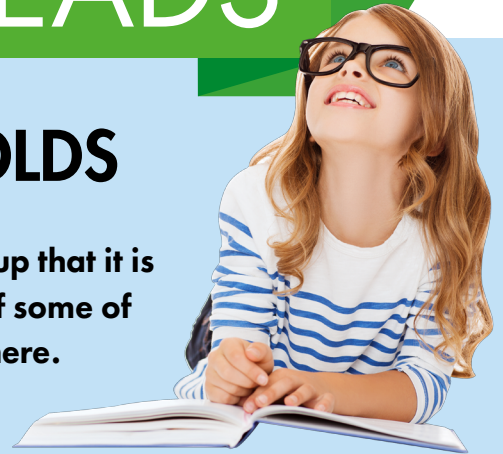
# STEP 2:

## Reading their way to literacy

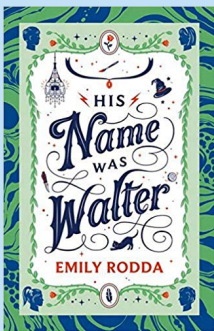
# 20 GREAT READS

## FOR 9-12 YEAR OLDS

There are so many great books out there for this age group that it is incredibly hard to make a shortlist. This is a mixed bag of some of those greats and I think there's something for everyone here.



1



### **His Name Was Walter** by Emily Rodda

Published: Harper Collins Publisher Australia

*Once upon a time, in a dark city far away, there lived a boy called Walter, who had nothing but his name to call his own...*

*The handwritten book, with its strangely vivid illustrations, has been hidden in the old house for a long, long time. Tonight, four kids and their teacher will find it. Tonight, at last, the haunting story of Walter and the mysterious, tragic girl called Sparrow will be read - right to the very end.*

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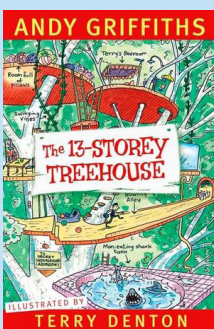


### **Grace's Secrets** by Louise Park

Published: Berbay Publishing

*When twelve-year-old Grace trades her tropical home in Western Australia for a faraway castle, Victorian costumes and a village trapped in time she thinks it's the fresh start she desperately needs. But unsolved problems have a way of following. A map of the castle's secret passages sends Grace on a time-travelling mystery that will challenge her very existence and all that she loves. Can Grace save herself as well as her family? And how will some of her favourite children's authors help her on her quest?*

3



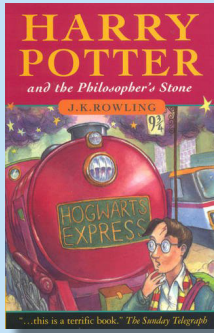
### **The 13-Storey Treehouse (The Treehouse Series, Book 1)**

by Andy Griffiths, illustrated by Terry Denton

Published: Pan Macmillan

*Andy and Terry's 13-storey treehouse is the most amazing treehouse in the world! It's got a bowling alley, a see-through swimming pool, a tank full of man-eating sharks, a giant catapult, a secret laboratory and an amazing machine that follows you around and shoots marshmallows right into your mouth whenever you are hungry!*

4

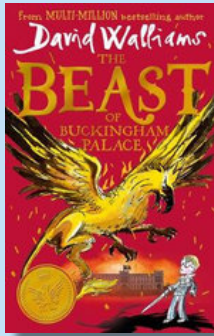


## Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone (Harry Potter Series, Book 1) by J.K. Rowling

Published: Bloomsbury Publishing UK

Harry Potter has never been the star of a Quidditch team, scoring points while riding a broom far above the ground. He knows no spells, has never helped to hatch a dragon, and has never worn a cloak of invisibility. All he knows is a miserable life with the Dursleys, his horrible aunt and uncle, and their abominable son, Dudley - a great big swollen spoiled bully. Harry's room is a tiny closet at the foot of the stairs, and he hasn't had a birthday party in eleven years. But all that is about to change when a mysterious letter arrives by owl messenger: a letter with an invitation to an incredible place that Harry - and anyone who reads about him - will find unforgettable.

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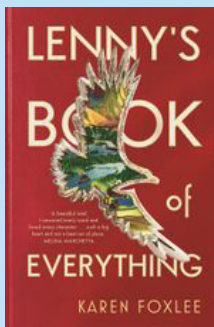
## The Beast of Buckingham Palace by David Walliams, illustrated by Tony Ross

Published: Harper Collins Publishers

The young Prince Alfred has never known a life outside Buckingham Palace - but when strange-goings on breach its walls and stalk the corridors in the dead of night, he is thrust into a world of mystery, adventure and monsters. And when his mother, the Queen, is dragged away to the Tower of London, Alfred must screw up his courage and battle to save her, himself...and the entire city.

Anything by David Walliams is gold!

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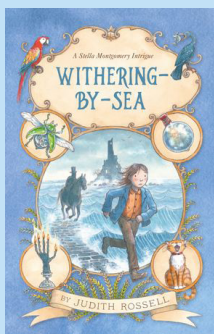


## Lenny's Book of Everything by Karen Foxlee

Published: Allen & Unwin

A book with heart that that will tug at yours... Lenny, small and sharp, has a younger brother Davey who won't stop growing - and at seven is as tall as a man. Raised by their mother, they have food and a roof over their heads, but not much else. The bright spot every week is the arrival of the latest issue of the Burrell's Build-It-at-Home Encyclopedia. Through the encyclopedia, Lenny and Davey experience the wonders of the world - beetles, birds, quasars, quartz - and dream about a life of freedom and adventure. But as Davey's health deteriorates, Lenny realises that some wonders can't be named.

7



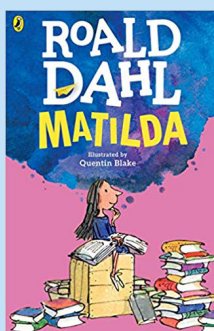
## Withering by the Sea (Stella Montgomery, Book 1) by Judith Rossell

Published: Harper Collins Publishers

High on a cliff above the gloomy coastal town of Withering-by-Sea stands the Hotel Majestic. Inside the walls of the damp, dull hotel, eleven-year-old orphan Stella Montgomery leads a miserable life with her three dreadful Aunts.

But one night, Stella sees something she shouldn't have... Something that will set in motion an adventure more terrifying and more wonderful than she could ever have hoped for.

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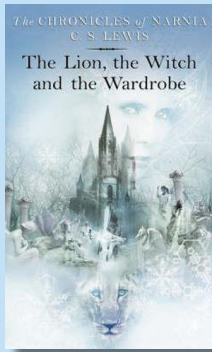


## Matilda by Roald Dahl illustrated by Quentin Blake

Published: Penguin Random House

Matilda Wormwood's father thinks she's a little scab. Matilda's mother spends all afternoon playing bingo. And Matilda's headmistress Miss Trunchbull? Well, she's the worst of all. She is a big bully, who thinks all her pupils are rotten and locks them in the dreaded Chokey. As for Matilda, she's an extraordinary little girl with a magical mind - and now she's had enough. So all these grown-ups had better watch out, because Matilda is going to teach them a lesson they'll never forget.

9



## The Lion, The Witch and the Wardrobe (Chronicles of Narnia, Book 1) by C.S. Lewis

Published: Harper Collins Publishing

"This is the land of Narnia," said the Faun, "where we are now. And you -- you have come from the wild woods of the west!" "I -- I got in through the wardrobe in the spare room," said Lucy. Lucy steps into the Professor's wardrobe -- but steps out again into a snowy forest. She's stumbled upon the magical world of Narnia, a land of unicorns, centaurs, fauns! and the wicked White Witch, who terrorises all. Lucy soon realises that Narnia, and in particular Aslan, the great Lion, needs her help if the county's creatures are ever going to be free again!

10



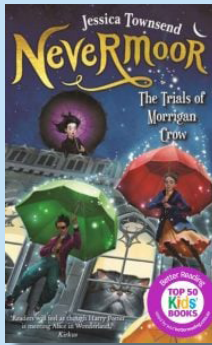
## Wonder by R.J. Palacio

Published: Random House UK

'My name is August. I won't describe what I look like. Whatever you're thinking, it's probably worse.'

Auggie wants to be an ordinary ten-year-old. He does ordinary things - eating ice cream, playing on his Xbox. He feels ordinary - inside. But ordinary kids don't make other ordinary kids run away screaming in playgrounds. Ordinary kids aren't stared at wherever they go. Born with a terrible facial abnormality, Auggie has been home-schooled by his parents his whole life. Now, for the first time, he's being sent to a real school - and he's dreading it. All he wants is to be accepted - but can he convince his new classmates that he's just like them, underneath it all?

11



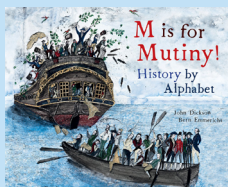
## Nevermoor The Trials of Morrigan Crow Series: Book 1

by Jessica Townsend

Published: Hachette Australia

Morrigan Crow is cursed. Born on an unlucky day, she is blamed for all local misfortunes, from hailstorms to heart attacks - and, worst of all, the curse means that Morrigan is doomed to die at midnight on Eventide. But as Morrigan awaits her fate, a strange and remarkable man named Jupiter North appears. Chased by black-smoke hounds and shadowy hunters on horseback, he whisks her away into the safety of a secret, magical city called Nevermoor. It's there that Morrigan discovers Jupiter has chosen her to contend for a place in the city's most prestigious organisation: the Wondrous Society. In order to join, she must compete in four difficult and dangerous trials against hundreds of other children, each boasting an extraordinary talent that sets them apart. Except for Morrigan, who doesn't seem to have any special talent at all. To stay in the safety of Nevermoor for good, Morrigan will need to find a way to pass the tests - or she'll have to leave the city to confront her deadly fate.

12



## M is for Mutiny: History by Alphabet

by John Dickson illustrated by Bern Emmerichs

Published: Berbay Publishing

In the late 18th century, ragtag groups of Europeans started to arrive in Australia. Most were convicts, some were soldiers, a few had just run out of choices. They blundered onto an ancient land that had been peopled for 60,000 years. They wanted to make it just like home. They cleared the land, they fenced it, they paved it and they put buildings on it. All the while, the country's first peoples watched on, bewildered by these clumsy immigrants and their mysterious ways...

*M is for Mutiny! History by Alphabet* is a taste of the intriguing history of Australia and the many entry points for children to explore further. Why did Sir Joseph Banks hate bananas? Did anyone like William Bligh? Where is Yemmerrawanne?

13



## The Good, the bad and the silly: Stories of our past

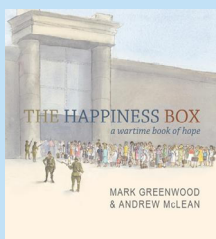
by John Dickson illustrated by Bern Emmerichs

Published: Berbay Publishing

*THE GOOD, THE BAD AND THE SILLY* is a taste of the intriguing history of Australia to alert young readers of the storytelling treasures to be unearthed in Australia's colonial and post-colonial history. This is the newest addition to the successful and award-winning series - "M is for Mutiny"



14



## The Happiness Box

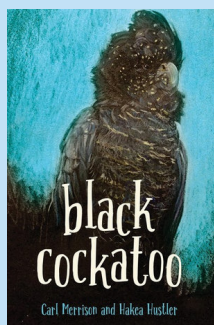
by Mark Greenwood illustrated by Andrew McLean

Published: Walker Books Aus and NZ

*In 1942, Sergeant "Griff" Griffin was a prisoner of war. With Christmas approaching, he decided to make a book for the children cooped up in nearby Changi Prison. The book was said to contain the secrets to happiness. But the enemy was suspicious...*

*With this picture book, award winners Mark Greenwood and Andrew McLean bring to life the inspirational true story of a book that became a National Treasure.*

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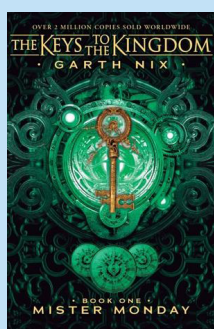


## Black Cockatoo

by Carl Merrison, Hakea Hustler

*Black Cockatoo is a vignette that follows Mia, a young Aboriginal girl as she explores the fragile connections of family and culture. Mia is a 13-year-old girl from a remote community in the Kimberley. She is saddened by the loss of her brother as he distances himself from the family. She feels powerless to change the things she sees around her, until one day she rescues her totem animal, the dirran black cockatoo, and soon discovers her own inner strength.*

16



## Mister Monday (The Keys to the Kingdom Series, Book 1)

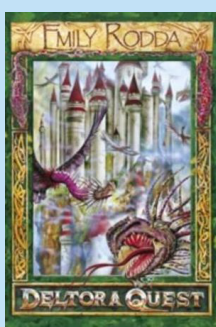
by Garth Nix

Published: Allen & Unwin

*Arthur Penhaligon is not supposed to be a hero. He is, in fact, supposed to die an early death. But then he is saved by a key shaped like the minute hand of a clock.*

*Arthur is safe - but his world is not. Along with the key comes a plague brought by bizarre creatures from another realm. A stranger named Mister Monday, his avenging messengers with blood-stained wings, and an army of dog-faced Fetchers will stop at nothing to get the key back - even if it means destroying Arthur and everything around him. Desperate, Arthur ventures into a mysterious house - a house that only he can see. It is in this house that Arthur must unravel the secrets of the key - and discover his true fate.*

17



## Deltora Quest 1

by Emily Rodda, illustrator Kate Rowe & Marc McBride

*The evil Shadow Lord is plotting to invade Deltora and enslave its people. All that stands against him is the magic Belt of Deltora with its seven gems of great and mysterious power. When the gems are stolen and hidden in dark terrible places throughout the kingdom, the Shadow Lord triumphs, and Deltora is lost.*

*In secrecy, with only a hand-drawn map to guide them, two unlikely companions set out on a perilous quest. Determined to find the lost gems and rid their land of the tyrant, they struggle towards their first goal - the sinister Forests of Silence.*

18



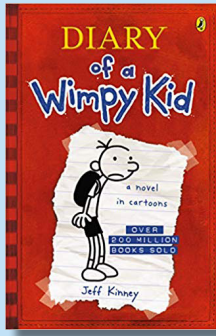
## The Rangers Apprentice (The Ruins of Gorlan Series)

by John Flanagan

Published: Penguin Random House

*Will is small for his age, but agile and energetic. All his life, he has dreamed of becoming a great knight like the father he never knew, so he is devastated when he is rejected as an apprentice to Castle Redmont's Battleschool. Instead he is apprenticed to Halt, the mysterious Ranger whose uncanny ability to move unseen is thought to be the result of black magic. Reluctantly, Will learns to use a Ranger's secret weapons: a bow and arrow, a mottled cloak and a stubborn little pony. It may not be the sword and battlehorse he longs for, but when Will and Halt set out on a desperate mission to prevent the assassination of the King, Will finds that a Ranger's weapons are not so useless after all.*

19



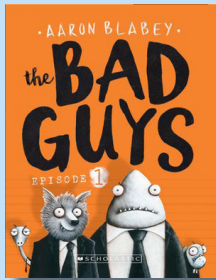
## Diary of a Wimpy Kid Series, Book 1 by Jeff Kinney

Published: Puffin

*Being a kid can really stink. And no one knows this better than Greg Heffley, who finds himself thrust into high school where undersized weaklings share the hallways with kids who are taller, meaner, and already shaving.*

*Luckily Greg has his best friend and sidekick, Rowley. But when Rowley's popularity starts to rise, it kicks off a chain of events that will test their friendship in hilarious fashion.*

20



## The Bad Guys: Episode 1 by Aaron Blabey

Published: Scholastic Australia

*They sound like the Bad Guys, they look like the Bad Guys . . . and they even smell like the Bad Guys. But Mr Wolf, Mr Piranha, Mr Snake and Mr Shark are about to change all of that! Mr Wolf has a daring plan for the Bad Guys first good mission. The gang are going to break 200 dogs out of the Maximum Security City Dog Pound.*

*Will Operation Dog Pound go smoothly? Will the Bad Guys become the Good Guys?*

*And will Mr Snake please spit out Mr Piranha?*