

STEP 2:

Reading their way to literacy

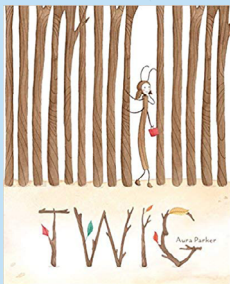
20 *SENSATIONAL* PICTURE BOOKS

What makes a great picture book?

Key Ingredients

These are the ingredients I look for and whilst not every picture book will tick off all of these points you want to choose books that have several covered:

- ✓ Does It tell a unique story in its economy of words?
- ✓ Does the story build and is well structured?
- ✓ Is there a well-developed character that children will love?
- ✓ Does the story help a child make sense of their world or provide new insights into their feelings?
- ✓ Is the text playful, fun and memorable?
- ✓ Do the text and illustrations work together to tell the story?
- ✓ Do the illustrations have storytelling qualities and help to extend the text?
- ✓ Does the story have that 'read it again!' quality?
- ✓ Does it appeal to a child and the 'child within the adult'?

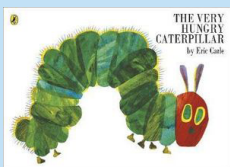


Twig by Aura Parker

Published: Scholastic Australia

One, two three. One, two, three. Why won't someone play with me?

Heidi is a stick insect, long and thin like the twig of a tree. It's her first day at Bug School, where she hopes to learn lots and make new friends. But no-one will talk to her...and no-one will play with her at lunch. No-one even notices her! Perhaps she's blending into the twigs a little too well? Luckily, Miss Orb comes up with a plan to help Heidi stand out.



The Very Hungry Caterpillar by Eric Carl

Published: Penguin Books Ltd

The Very Hungry Caterpillar follows the life cycle of a caterpillar as it starts by coming out of its egg, all the way to becoming a butterfly. It teaches the days of the week and counting up to five.

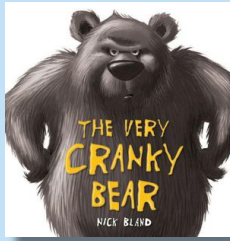


We're Going on a Bear Hunt by Michael Rosin, illustrated by Helen Oxenbury

Published: Walker Books

Five children and their dog go out to hunt a bear. They travel through grass, a river, mud, a forest and a snowstorm before coming face to face with a bear in its cave. This meeting causes panic and the family run home, across all the obstacles, followed by the bear.

4

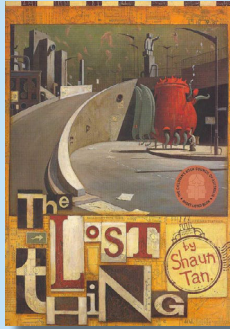


The Very Cranky Bear by Nick Bland

Published: Scholastic Australia

One day four animal friends, Moose, Lion, Zebra, and Sheep, enter a cave to get out of a rainstorm and disturb a bear. A very cranky bear.

5



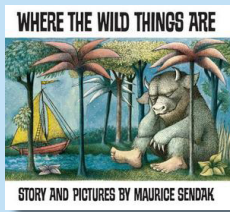
The Lost Thing by Shaun Tan

Published: Hachette Australia

A boy finds a lost 'thing' on the beach where he's scavenging for his bottle top collection. The thing is a large, freakish creature that no one really notices. A quirky tale about finding your place in the world.

A boy discovers a bizarre-looking creature while out collecting bottle-tops at a beach. Having guessed that it is lost, he tries to find out who owns it or where it belongs, but the problem is met with indifference by everyone else, who barely notices its presence. Each is unhelpful in their own way; strangers, friends, parents are all unwilling to entertain this uninvited interruption to day-to-day life. In spite of his better judgement, the boy feels sorry for this hapless creature, and attempts to find out where it belongs.

6

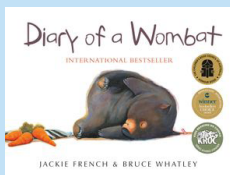


Where the Wild Things Are by Maurice Sendak

Published: Random House Publishers UK

Feeling misunderstood at home and at school, mischievous Max escapes to the land of the Wild Things, majestic -- and sometimes fierce -- creatures. They allow Max to become their leader, and he promises to create a kingdom where everyone will be happy. However, Max soon finds that being king is not easy and that, even being with the Wild Things, there is something missing.

7



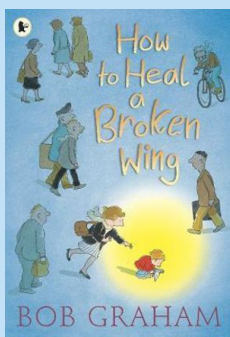
Diary of a Wombat by Jackie French, illustrated by Bruce Whatley

Published: Harper Collins Australia

Monday Morning: Slept. Afternoon: Slept. Evening: Ate. Scratched. Night: Ate.

A typical day. Don't be fooled. This wombat leads a very busy and demanding life. She wrestles unknown creatures, runs her own digging business, and most difficult of all - trains her humans. She teaches them when she would like carrots, when she would like oats and when she would like both at the same time. But these humans are slow learners.

8

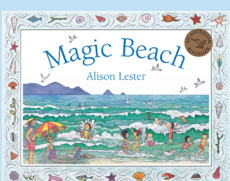


How to Heal a Broken Wing by Bob Graham

Published: Walker Books

No one in the busy city sees the bird lying on the pavement, its wing broken. No one but a small boy called Will. He and his mum carry it home and, with time, rest, and a little bit of hope, the wing mends - and they set the bird free to soar over the city once more.

9

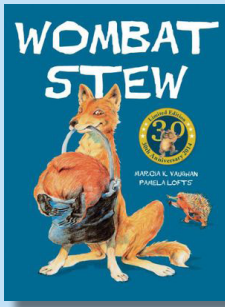


Magic Beach by Alison Lester

Published: Allen & Unwin

Imagine a beach where you can swim, surf, splash through the waves, make sandcastles, hunt for treasures, explore rock-pools, fish from the jetty, and build a bonfire under the stars. Imagine a beach where adventure begins...

10

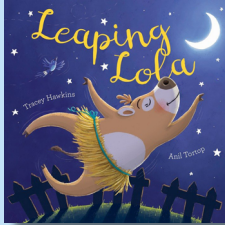


Wombat Stew by Marcia Vaughan, illustrated by Pamela Lofts

Published: Scholastic Australia

In this classic Australian picture book, a dingo catches a wombat and wants to cook him in a stew. But all the other bush animals have a plan to save their friend. They trick the dingo into using mud, feathers, flies, bugs and gumnuts in his stew, and the result is something the dingo will never forget!

11

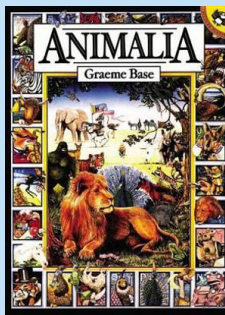


Leaping Lola by Tracey Hawkins, illustrated by Anil Tortop

Published: New Frontier Publishing UK & Aus

Lola loves to dance. She flounces and bounces all day long, practising for the Black and White Ball. But she is a brown Jersey cow, not a black-and-white cow. Can she disguise herself and have a spin on the dance floor?

12



Animalia by Graeme Base

Published: Penguin Books

*Within the pages of this book
You may discover, if you look
Beyond the spell of written words,
A hidden land of beasts and birds.
For many things are 'of a kind,'
And those with keenest eyes will find
A thousand things, or maybe more -
It's up to you to keep the score . . .*

13

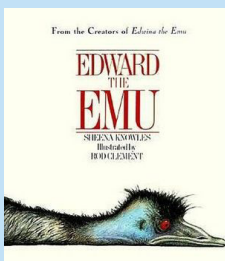


My Two Blankets by Irena Kobold, illustrated by Freya Blackwood

Published: Hardie Grant, Little Hare

Cartwheel has moved to a place that is so strange to her, she no longer feels like herself. This is a story about new ways of speaking, new ways of living, new ways of being.

14

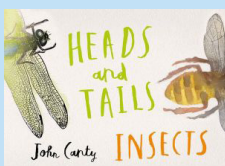


Edward the Emu by Sheena Knowles, illustrated by Rod Clement

Published: Harper Collins

Tired of his life as an emu, Edward decides to try being something else for a change. He tries swimming with the seals. He spends a day lounging with the lions. He even does a stint slithering with the snakes. But Edward soon discovers that being an emu may be the best thing after all. And so he returns to his pen, only to find a big surprise awaiting him.

15

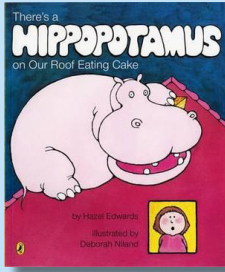


Heads and Tails Insects by John Canty

Published: Berbay Publishing

You can only see my tail but can you guess what insect I am? At first we can only see the insects tails. Some clues help try to identify each insect as we learn more about each one. Now, can you guess the insect that each tail belongs to before they are revealed once the page is turned?

16



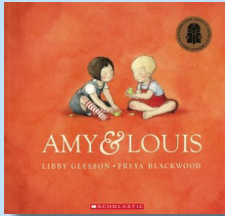
There's a Hippopotamus on Our Roof Eating Cake

by Hazel Edwards, illustrated by Deborah Niland

Published: Penguin Books

My daddy says there's a hole in our roof. I know why there's a hole. There's a hippopotamus on our roof eating cake. He can do what he likes.

17

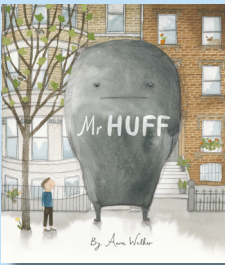


Amy & Louis

by Libby Gleeson, illustrated by Freya Blackwood

Amy and Louis live next door to each other, and their lives are closely intertwined. There is a life rich in imagination they see dragons in the clouds and make castles out of cardboard. But when Amy's family moves to another country, the children are separated and the colour drains out of their lives.

18

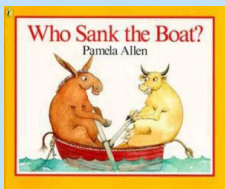


Mr Huff

by Anna Walker

Mr Huff is a story about the clouds and the sunshine in each of our lives. Bill is having a bad day. Mr Huff is following him around and making everything seem difficult. Bill tries to get rid of him, but Mr Huff just gets bigger and bigger!

19

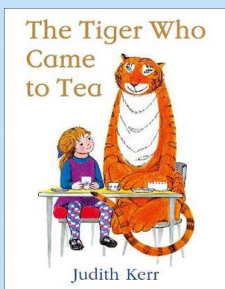


Who Sank the Boat?

by Pamela Allen

*Who sank the boat?
Was it the cow or the donkey or the sheep with her knitting?
Surely it wasn't the tiny little mouse?*

20



The Tiger Who Came to Tea

by Judith Kerr

The doorbell rings just as Sophie and her mummy are sitting down to tea. Who could it possibly be? What they certainly don't expect to see at the door is a big furry, stripy tiger!