

2025 CBCA Book of the Year Notables

Book of the Year: Older Readers

Entries in this category may be fiction, drama or poetry and should be appropriate in style and content for readers in their secondary years of schooling. Ages 13-18 years.

Title	Author	Illustrator	Publisher	ISBN
A Way Home	Emily Brewin		MidnightSun Publishing	9781922858382
A Wreck of Seabirds	Karleah Olson		Fremantle Press	9781760993924
Birdy	Sharon Kernot		Text Publishing	9781922790606
Comes the Night	Isobelle Carmody		A&U Books for Children and Young Adults	9781760294762
Deep is the Fen	Lili Wilkinson		A&U Books for Children and Young Adults	9781761066863
Eleanor Jones Can't Keep a Secret	Amy Doak		Penguin Random House Australia	9781761342424
I Hope This Doesn't Find You	Ann Liang		Penguin Random House Australia	9781761049811
I'm Not Really Here	Gary Lonesborough		A&U Books for Children and Young Adults	9781761180767
Into the Mouth of the Wolf	Erin Gough		Hardie Grant Children's Publishing	9781760507558
Kate Forsyth's Long-Lost Fairy Tales	Kate Forsyth	Lorena Carrington	New Dawn Publishing	9780645489965
Liar's Test	Ambelin Kwaymullina		Text Publishing	9781922790873
Look Me in the Eye	Jane Godwin		Lothian Children's Books	9780734420794
Maria Petranelli is Prepared for Anything (Except This)	Elisa Chenoweth		Hardie Grant Children's Publishing	9781761212451
My Brother, Finch	Kate Gordon		Riveted Press	9780645869347
My Family and Other Suspects	Kate Emery		A&U Books for Children and Young Adults	9781760529215
Return to Sender	Lauren Draper		Macmillan Australia	9781761266515
The Invocations	Krystal Sutherland		Penguin Random House Australia	9780143777410
The Skin I'm In	Steph Tisdell		Macmillan Australia	9781760984977
The Sweetness Between Us	Sarah Winifred Searle		A&U Books for Children and Young Adults	9781761181245
Thunderhead	Sophie Beer		A&U Books for Children and Young Adults	9781761180958
White Noise	Raelke Grimmer		UWA Publishing	9781760802851
Wrong Answers Only	Tobias Madden		Penguin Random House Australia	9780143777403

2025 CBCA Book of the Year Notables

Book of the Year: Younger Readers

Entries in this category may be fiction, drama or poetry and should be appropriate in style and content for readers from the middle to upper primary years. 7-12 years.

Title	Author	Illustrator	Publisher	ISBN
Aggie Flea Steals the Show	Tania Ingram	Anne Yi	Scholastic Australia	9781760976309
Countdown to Yesterday	Shirley Marr		Penguin Random House Australia	9781761340598
Ella and the Amazing Frog Orchestra	Cassy Polimeni	Hykie Breeze	UWA Publishing	9781760802899
Fluff: Mess Up!	Matt Stanton	Matt Stanton	ABC Books	9780733342110
Hello Twigs, Look Who's Grumpy	Andrew McDonald	Ben Wood	Hardie Grant Children's Publishing	9781761212031
How to Break a World Record and Survive Grade Five	Carla Fitzgerald		University of Queensland Press	9780702268717
Jy Goes for Gold	Carl Merrison & Hakea Hustler	Samantha Campbell	HarperCollins AU	9781460765074
Landovel	Emily Rodda		A&U Books for Children and Young Adults	9781761069758
Laughter is the Best Ending	Maryam Master	Astred Hicks	Pan Australia	9781761560132
Ming and Ada Spark the Digital Age	Jackie French		HarperCollins AU	9781460764879
Oscar vs the Grand Old Dude Named York	Ross Curnow		Walker Books Australia	9781760657819
Real Pigeons Power Up	Andrew McDonald	Ben Wood	Hardie Grant Children's Publishing	9781761211553
Saskia Spark-Lee: Fundraiser Fail	Rebecka Sharpe Shelberg	Sofya Karmazina	Walker Books Australia	9781760655556
Shower Land 1: Break the Curse	Nat Amore	James Hart	Penguin Random House Australia	9781761342523
Six Summers of Tash and Leopold	Danielle Binks		Lothian Children's Books	9780734421890
Small Acts	Kate Gordon & Kate Foster		Walker Books Australia	9781760655938
The Kindness Project	Deborah Abela		Penguin Random House Australia	9781761340185
The Midwatch	Judith Rossell	Judith Rossell	Hardie Grant Children's Publishing	9781761212369
The Other Shadow	Tania Ingram		Scholastic Australia	9781761203251
Tigg and the Bandicoot Bushranger	Jackie French		HarperCollins AU	9781460763506
To and Fro	Anton Clifford-Motopi		A&U Books for Children and Young Adults	9781761180378
Tweet	Morris Gleitzman		Penguin Random House Australia	9781761343742

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Twining BFF's (NOT)	Alexa Moses	Sofya Karmazina	Scholastic Australia	9781761292620
We Do Not Welcome Our Ten-Year-Old Overlord	Garth Nix		A&U Books for Children and Young Adults	9781761180491
Worst Week Ever Saturday	Eva Amores	Matt Cosgrove	Scholastic Australia	9781760979089

Book of the Year: Early Childhood

Entries in this category may be fiction, drama or poetry and should be appropriate in style and content for children who are at pre-reading or early stages of reading. Ages 0-6 years.

Title	Author	Illustrator	Publisher	ISBN
Amid the Sand Dunes	Andrea Rowe	Hannah Sommerville	Little Hare	9781761213786
Dinosaur in My Pocket	Ashleigh Barton	Blithe Fielden	Lothian Children's Books	9780734422668
Don't Worry, Felix	Yohann Devezy & Katharine Alice	Zoe Bennett	New Frontier Publishing	9781923145054
Everything You Ever Wanted to Know About the Tooth Fairy (And Some Things You Didn't)	Briony Stewart	Briony Stewart	Lothian Children's Books	9780734421883
Good Hair	Yvonne Sewankambo	Freda Chiu	Walker Books Australia	9781760655709
Happy All Over	Emma Quay	Emma Quay	ABC Books	9780733341441
How to Make a Bedtime	Meg McKinlay	Karen Blair	Walker Books Australia	9781760653712
How to Move a Zoo	Kate Simpson	Owen Swan	A&U Books for Children and Young Adults	9781761180309
I am Tree Rex!	Mo Davey	Mo Davey	Berbay	978-1-922610-66-9
Just Like You	Natashia Curtin	Natashia Curtin	Walker Books Australia	9781760658069
Kittens Do Not Care for Baths	Ali Rutstein	Niña Nill	Hardie Grant Children's Publishing	9781761213274
Meerkat Mayhem	Mem Fox	Judy Horacek	Penguin Random House Australia	9780143777687
Night Watch	Jodi Toering	Tannya Harricks	Walker Books Australia	9781760655310
One Little Dung Beetle	Rhian Williams	Heather Potter & Mark Jackson	Wild Dog Books	9781742036656
Over or Under?	Pip Harry	Hilary Jean Tapper	Lothian Children's Books	9780734421807
Reading to Baby	Margaret Wild	Hannah Sommerville	Affirm Press	97819222930378
Sky Country	Aunty Patsy Cameron	Lisa Kennedy	Magabala Books	978-1-922777-21-8
Spiro	Anna McGregor	Anna McGregor	Scribble	9781761381010

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The Big Book of Australian Nursery Rhymes	Frané Lessac	Frané Lessac	Walker Books Australia	9781760655099
The Most Amazing Thing	Ian Hayward Robinson	Matt Shanks	A&U Books for Children and Young Adults	9781761180118
The Wobbly Bike	Darren McCallum	Craig Smith	Walker Books Australia	9781760656416
To Stir With Love	Kate Mildenhall	Jess Racklyeft	Simon & Schuster Australia	9781761426391
Two Turtles	Kiah Thomas	Jake Minton	Little Book Press	978-0-6454014-9-3
Willow's Gumboots	Beverly McWilliams	Hélène Magisson	MidnightSun Publishing	9781922858535
Worms Are Our Friends	Toni D'Alia	Mica Purnell	Bright Light	9781761212994

Picture Book of the Year

Entries in this category should be outstanding books of the Picture Book genre in which the author and illustrator achieve artistic and literary unity or, in wordless picture books, where the story, theme or concept is unified through illustrations. Ages 0-18 years.

Title	Illustrator	Author	Publisher	ISBN
A Leaf Called Greaf	Kelly Canby	Kelly Canby	Fremantle Press	9781760993894
Afloat	Freya Blackwood	Kirli Saunders	Little Hare	9781760505899
Bernie Thinks in Boxes	Zoe Bennett	Jess Horn	Affirm Press	9781922930033
Dragon Folding	Lucia Masciullo	Christopher Cheng	Penguin Random House Australia	9781761340949
Footprint	Sally Soweol Han	Phil Cummings	A&U Books for Children and Young Adults	9781761180323
For 60,000 Years	Rhys Paddick	Marlee Silva	Scholastic Australia	9781760265274
General Waste	Michel Streich	Michel Streich	Scholastic Australia	9781761205699
Grow Big, Little Seed	Sarah Capon	Bec Nanayakkara	Bright Light	9781761212963
House	Charlotte Lane	Dan Giovannoni	Fremantle Press	9781760994709
Listen, Hippo!	Gabriel Evans	Gabriel Evans	Penguin Random House Australia	9781761341700
Night Watch	Tannya Harricks	Jodi Toering	Walker Books Australia	9781760655310
Stickboy	Matt Ottley	Rebecca Young	Scholastic Australia	978-1742994468
The Garden of Broken Things	Freya Blackwood	Freya Blackwood	HarperCollins AU	9781460757550
The Land Recalls You	David Cragg & Noni Cragg	Kirli Saunders	Scholastic Australia	9781760975159

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The Space Between	Jess McGeachin	Jess McGeachin	Penguin Random House Australia	9780143779186
The Truck Cat	Danny Snell	Deborah Frenkel	Bright Light	9781761212291
Then and Now	Datsun Tran	Datsun Tran	Slingshot Books	9780645975406
These Long-Loved Things	Ronojoy Ghosh	Josh Pyke	Scholastic Australia	978-1761293849
Three Dresses	Wanda Gibson	Wanda Gibson	University of Queensland Press	9780702266355
Tilly in a Tangle	Monty Lee	Margrete Lamond	Dirt Lane Press	9781923044289
Two Turtles	Jake Minton	Kiah Thomas	Little Book Press	978-0-6454014-9-3
Walking Together	Dub Leffler	Coral Vass	Scholastic Australia	9781761126260
We Live in a Bus	Dave Petzold	Dave Petzold	Thames & Hudson Australia	9781760764647
Why I Love Christmas	Tom Jellett	Michael Wagner	Penguin Random House Australia	9781761344688
Words That Taste Like Home	Michelle Pereira	Sandhya Parappukaran	Bright Light	9781761213281

Eve Pownall Award

Entries in this category should be books which have the prime intention of documenting factual material with consideration given to imaginative presentation, interpretation and variation of style. Ages 0-18 years.

Title	Author	Illustrator	Publisher	ISBN
All About the Brain	Gabriel Dabscheck	Gabriel Dabscheck	Berbay	978-1-922610-76-8
Always Was, Always Will Be	Aunty Fay Muir & Sue Lawson		Magabala Books	978-1-922777-61-4
Anti-Racism Kit	Sabina Patawaran & Jinyoung Kim	Emma Ismawi	Hardie Grant Children's Publishing	9781761211171
Australia's Baby Animals	Jess Racklyeft	Jess Racklyeft	Affirm Press	9781923022812
Before the Mountain had a Name	Fiona Levings	Fiona Levings	Forty South Publishing	9780645983579
Come Together Again	Isaiah Firebrace	Jaelyn Biumaiwai	Hardie Grant Explore	9781741179019
Design & Building on Country	Alison Page & Paul Memmott	Blak Douglas	Thames & Hudson Australia	9781760763565
Extreme Animal Facts	Jennifer Cossins	Jennifer Cossins	Lothian Children's Books	9780734422477
Flora: Australia's Most Curious Plants	Tania McCartney	Tania McCartney	NLA Publishing	9781922507716
Follow Your Gut	Ailsa Wild & Lisa Stinson, with Briony Barr & Gregory Crocetti	Ben Hutchings	Scribe Publications	9781761380891
I am a Magpie, I am a Currawong	Bridget Farmer	Bridget Farmer	Black Cockatoo Books	9780645713725

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Into the Ice: Reflections on Antarctica	Alison Lester & Coral Tulloch	Alison Lester & Coral Tulloch	A&U Books for Children and Young Adults	9781760526061
Making the Shrine: Stories From Victoria's War Memorial	Laura J Carroll	Laura J Carroll	The Crossley Press	9781763515604
Now for the Good News	Planet Ark Environmental Foundation	Sarah Wiecek	Penguin Random House Australia	9780143779582
Plantabulous! More A to Z of Australian Plants	Catherine Clowes	Rachel Gyan	CSIRO Publishing	9781486317202
Seed to Sky: Life in the Daintree	Pamela Freeman	Liz Anelli	Walker Books Australia	9781760653750
Sensational Australian Animals	Stephanie Owen Reeder	Cher Hart	CSIRO Publishing	9781486316892
South With the Seabirds	Jess McGeachin	Jess McGeachin	A&U Books for Children and Young Adults	9781761068645
Sunny Finds His Song	Catherine Storey & Penny Watson	Sarah Matsuda	Wet Season Books	9780645370836
The Illustrated Encyclopaedia of Extinct Animals	Sami Bayly	Sami Bayly	Lothian Children's Books	9780734421395
Too Many Tigers	Monica Reeve	Monica Reeve	Forty South Publishing, Tasmania	9780975640654
Unreal	Kate Simpson	Leila Rudge	A&U Books for Children and Young Adults	9781761180347
Walking the Rock Country in Kakadu	Diane Lucas & Ben Tyler	Emma Long	A&U Books for Children and Young Adults	9781761067860
Wedge-tailed Eagle	Claire Saxby	Christina Booth	Walker Books Australia	9781760655686
When the World Was Soft	Juluwarlu Group Aboriginal Corporation	Alex Mankiewicz	A&U Books for Children and Young Adults	9781761180651

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