

# BOOK OF THE YEAR

awards 2023



Speech Pathology Australia

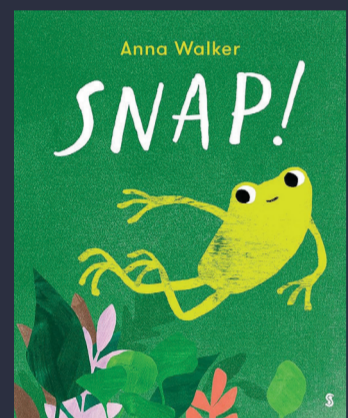


## THE BEST BOOKS FOR LANGUAGE AND LITERACY DEVELOPMENT

The Speech Pathology Australia Book of the Year Awards raise awareness of the role **speech pathologists** play in assisting people of all ages to develop their **language and literacy skills**.

[WWW.SPEECHPATHOLOGYAUSTRALIA.ORG.AU/BOOKS](http://WWW.SPEECHPATHOLOGYAUSTRALIA.ORG.AU/BOOKS)

### BIRTH – 3 YEARS



#### **Snap!**

Written and illustrated by Anna Walker

*Snap!* is a captivating children's adventure that immerses readers in a froggy journey through vibrant jungle scenes. With striking, full-page illustrations, the book employs onomatopoeia to enhance the sensory experience. The text's dynamic placement invites dramatic reading, amplifying the excitement as the little frog narrowly escapes predators with SNAPS and SNACKS. Nature-loving kids will revel in this

auditory delight, fostering language development as they mimic the sounds and actions. The expressive frog illustrations facilitate emotional exploration, making it accessible for children of all communication abilities. *Snap!* is a great choice for interactive, language-rich reading experiences.

### THREE TO 5 YEARS



#### **Come over to my house,**

Written by Eliza Hull and Sally Rippin

Illustrated by Daniel Gray-Barnett

*Come Over To My House* is a captivating children's book featuring an inviting cut-out hardcover and vibrant illustrations. Its rhythmic, repetitive text engages young readers, while emphasising the beauty of diversity in Australian culture.

Through exploring different homes, children are encouraged to reflect on their own. The book's positive depiction of

individuals living with disability and its engaging format creates opportunities for meaningful conversations. With its colourful illustrations and developmentally appropriate language, this book serves as an educational and inclusive addition to any child's library.

### FIVE TO 8 YEARS



#### **Jetty Jumping**

Written by Andrea Rowe

Illustrated by Hannah Sommerville

*Jetty Jumping* is a captivating children's book that combines a compelling narrative format with themes of bravery and emotion. Ideal for ages 5–8, it fosters conversations about feelings and encourages inference and prediction skills. The text is rich with adjectives and literary devices, making it a valuable tool for teaching new vocabulary. Coupled with

beautifully rendered illustrations, it enhances language and early reading skills. With its engaging visuals and thoughtful phrases, *Jetty Jumping* serves as an excellent resource for teaching a range of concepts and higher-level language skills.

### EIGHT TO 10 YEARS



#### **Evie and Rhino**

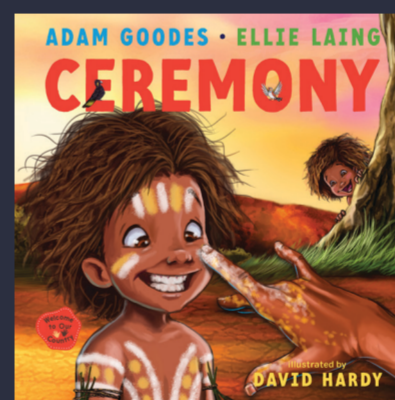
Written by Neridah McMullin

Illustrated by Astred Hicks

*Evie and Rhino* offers a captivating journey to another era with its beautifully crafted narrative. The writing style fosters emotional connections and provides insights into Australian culture. Thought-provoking themes, moral dilemmas, and the use of humour make it suitable for children and adults alike, sparking enriching conversations. The use of dialogue and varied sentence structures serves as a valuable learning tool.

Additionally, the inclusion of a recipe at the end adds an extra layer of engagement and ties in with the story's context. This well-written book, based on a real shipwreck event, offers a creatively reimagined and uplifting tale with strong, diverse characters.

### ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER AUTHORED CHILDREN'S BOOK AWARD



#### **Ceremony: Welcome to our Country**

Written by Adam Goodes and Ellie Laing

Illustrated by David Hardy

*Ceremony: Welcome to our Country* beautifully encapsulates First Nations culture, especially surrounding the cultural practice of Ceremony. Goodes and Laing perfectly depict what a traditional Ceremony looks like. They blend Language and Australian English, allowing

the reader to learn translations of common Australian English words. The additional first page of information also provides the reader with places to delve deeper into learning about Culture and First Nations people. Joyful and full of fun, *Ceremony* invites readers to celebrate the rich traditions of dance, family, community and caring for Country.

### DECODABLE BOOKS



#### **Little Learners Big World Series**

The *Little Learners Big World* decodable books series is a remarkable educational resource. Designed to foster early literacy skills, these books offer young readers engaging stories that align with their developing reading abilities. With carefully crafted text, phonetic patterns, and engaging illustrations, these books provide a scaffolded approach to reading, ensuring success and boosting confidence. The series is an

invaluable tool for educators and parents alike, supporting young learners on their journey to becoming proficient readers in a big world of words.