

Make Book Week Sing!



Explore StoryBox Hub's



CHILDREN'S BOOK WEEK 2026

SYMPHONY OF STORIES



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CHILDREN'S BOOK WEEK 2026



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Children's Book Week

StoryBox Hub Resources



CHILDREN'S BOOK WEEK 2026

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Get Ready for Children's Book Week 2026!

Children's Book Week is one of Australia's most beloved celebrations of reading, and in 2026 the Children's Book Council of Australia invites us all into a Symphony of Stories. Running 22nd to 28th August, it's a theme that reminds us how books blend words, images and emotions into something truly powerful.

Bring stories to life with our ready-made resources for Children's Book Week.

[Browse Collections](#)

To kick off our celebrations, author, illustrator and songwriter Peter Dinkley shares what Symphony of Stories means to him and how his series, The Sound of Future Books, brings that idea to life in a truly innovative way. StoryBox will be releasing new illustrated stories regularly between now and August. Scroll down to explore activities and find everything you need to make Children's Book Week 2026 sing.

2026 CHILDREN'S BOOK WEEK
SYMPHONY OF STORIES
22-28 August
#CBCA2026

StoryBox Hub will have all the brilliant stories from the Early Childhood and Picture Books of the Year shortlist, and a stunning New Year's Eve film. You can keep up to date with all the latest news and updates on the Children's Book Week 2026 website.

[Read more](#)

Teasers and Stories Currently Available

[Beyond the Shire](#) [The Frog's First Song](#) [Bob Doe](#) [Coming Soon](#) [Coming Soon](#) [Coming Soon](#)

[StoryBox Library](#)
Discover Library features a growing digital library of stories read aloud by diverse narrators. Choose a subscription that's right for you and discover a whole symphony of stories waiting to be heard.
[Purchase](#)

[Children's Book Week Resources](#)
Dive into Children's Book Week 2026. Explore your dedicated resources page for a symphony of activities to bring the year's theme to life.
[Explore Resources](#)

[Visit CBCA](#)
Visit the Children's Book Council website to explore the Children's Book Week 2026 theme.
[Visit our website](#)

SYMPHONY OF STORIES

THE CHILDREN'S BOOK COUNCIL OF AUSTRALIA
WE'RE HERE — AND COMING BACK TO STAY

StoryBoxHub

CHILDREN'S BOOK WEEK 2026
SYMPHONY OF STORIES
RESOURCES!

Children's Book Week Resources 2026 for Schools

Children's Book Week 2026 Resources for Younger Learners

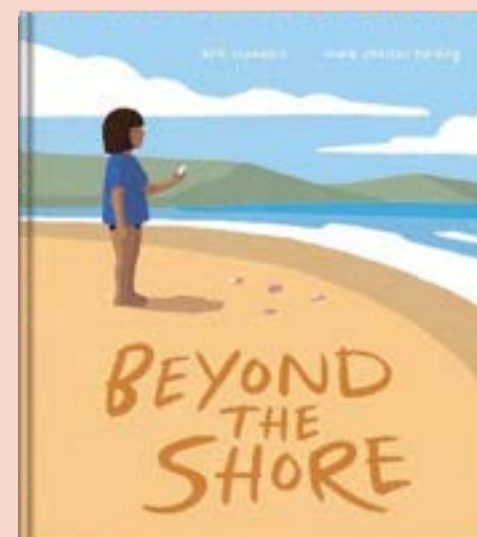
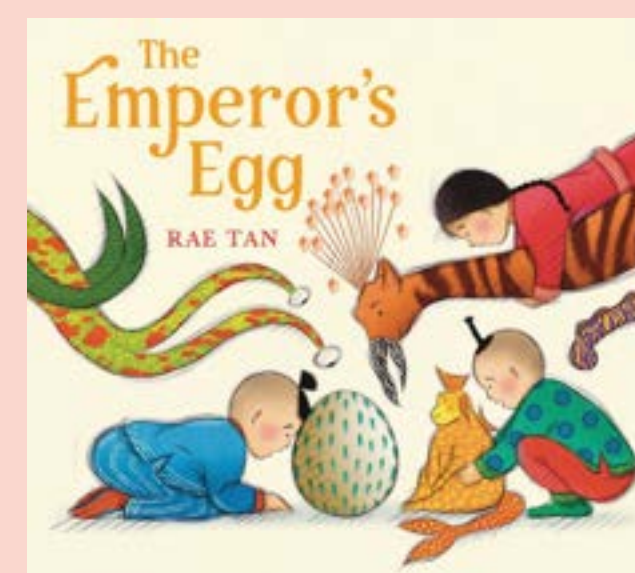
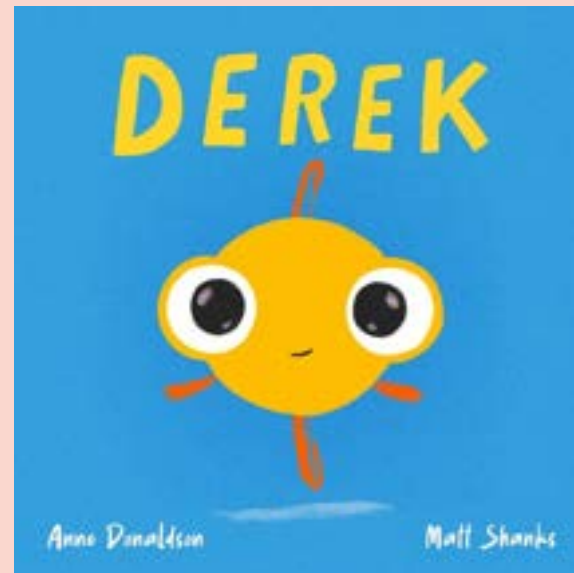
CHILDREN'S BOOK WEEK 2026
SYMPHONY OF STORIES
RESOURCES!

Children's Book Week 2026 Resources for Libraries



Early Childhood Shortlist

CHILDREN'S BOOK WEEK 2026



& New Illustrator title

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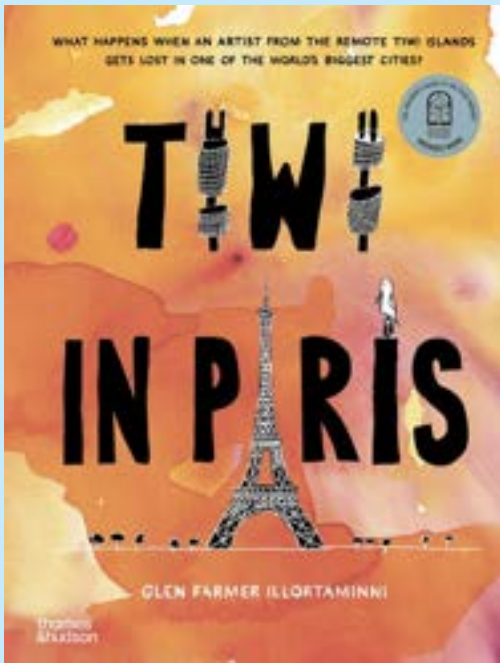
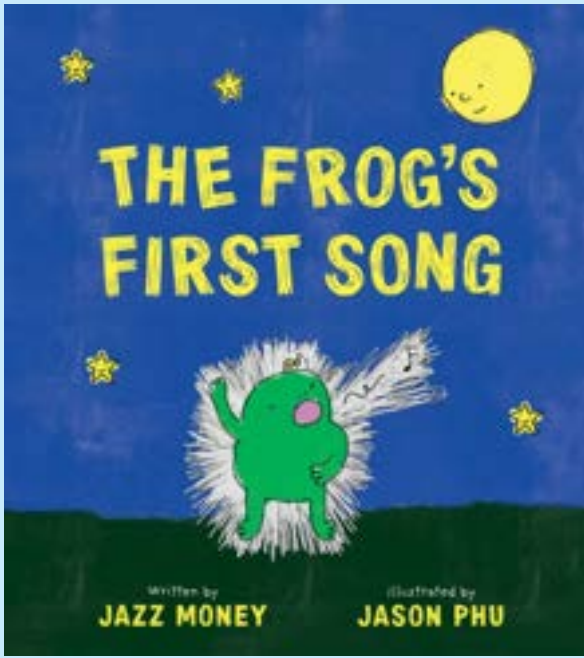
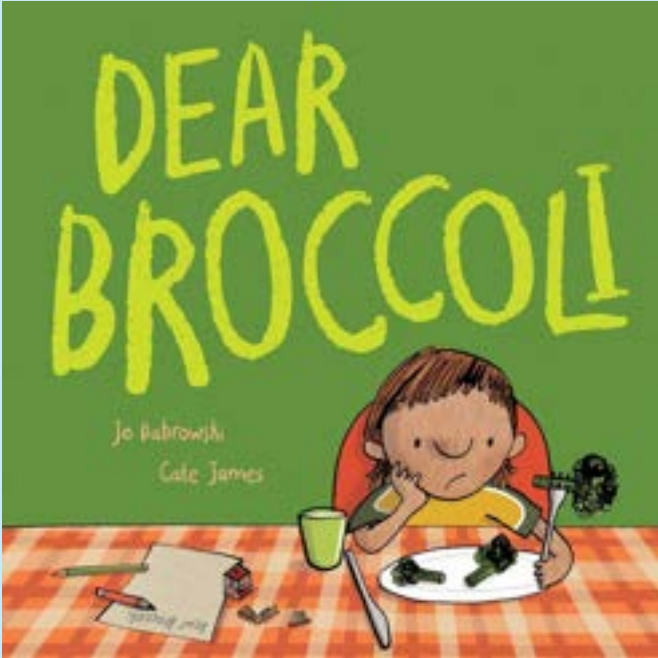
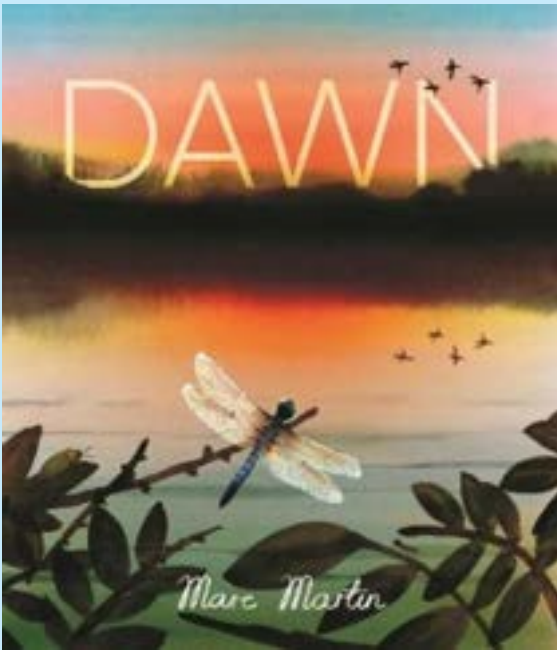
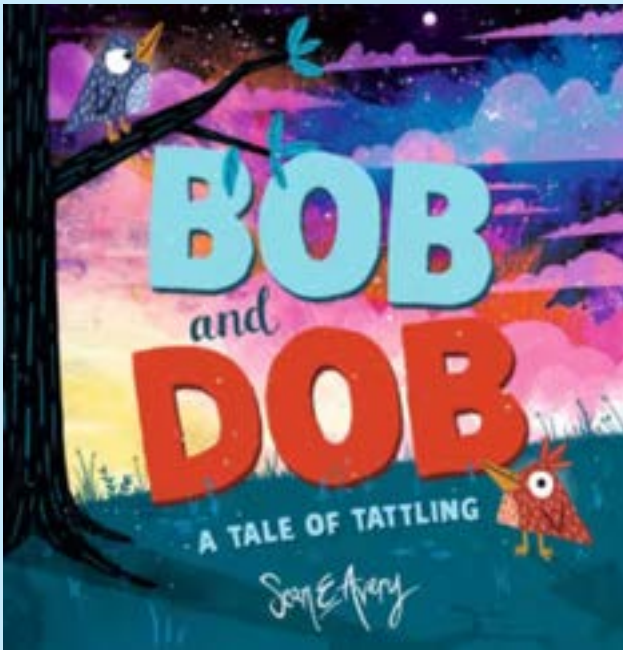
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Picture Book Shortlist

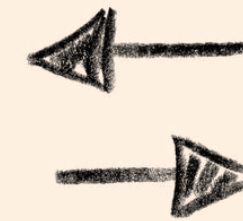
CHILDREN'S BOOK WEEK 2026





Theme Ideas Wondering Wall

A cartoon illustration of a blue penguin with a yellow beak and feet. It is holding a small, round, yellow object with a blue outline in its beak. The penguin is standing on a small patch of ground.



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Storytime.
Anytime.

Curiosity.
Creativity.

Symphony of Stories

Theme Ideas
Wondering Wall

CHILDREN'S BOOK WEEK 2026



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Early Childhood Shortlist

Activity Cards

CHILDREN'S BOOK WEEK 2026

DEREK: ACTIVITY CARDS

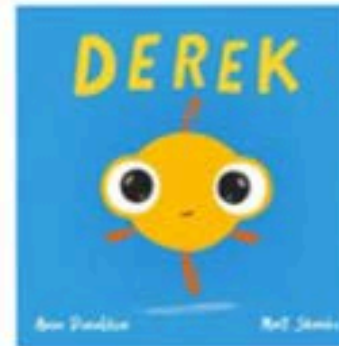
CHILDREN'S BOOK WEEK 2026

Derek

Written by:
Anne Donaldson

Illustrated by:
Matt Shanks

Read aloud by:
Tamala Shelton



Choose an activity,
then scan the QR code
to print its template.

DEREK: Written by Anne Donaldson. Illustrated by Matt Shanks. Read aloud by Tamala Shelton.

Derek's thoughts and talks

Draw Derek and fill his bubbles!

Write:

- one curious question he has (Thought)
- one thing he would say to a new friend (Speech).

Use the
I think... I say
template



DEREK: Written by Anne Donaldson. Illustrated by Matt Shanks. Read aloud by Tamala Shelton.

Sensory exploration

Dive into Derek's world!

Fill your **Senses Chart** with words and pictures that describe what it's like to live underwater in a fish bowl.

Use the
Senses Chart
template



DEREK: Written by Anne Donaldson. Illustrated by Matt Shanks. Read aloud by Tamala Shelton.

Derek's next adventure

If Derek and his new friend could go on an adventure, where do you think they'd go? What do you think they might see?

Write and/or decorate a **Postcard** from Derek telling the "big creatures" about his new adventure.

Use the
Postcard
template



DEREK: Written by Anne Donaldson. Illustrated by Matt Shanks. Read aloud by Tamala Shelton.

Word art wall

Derek is a very busy character. Your task is to hunt for the "doing words" (verbs) that bring his story to life.

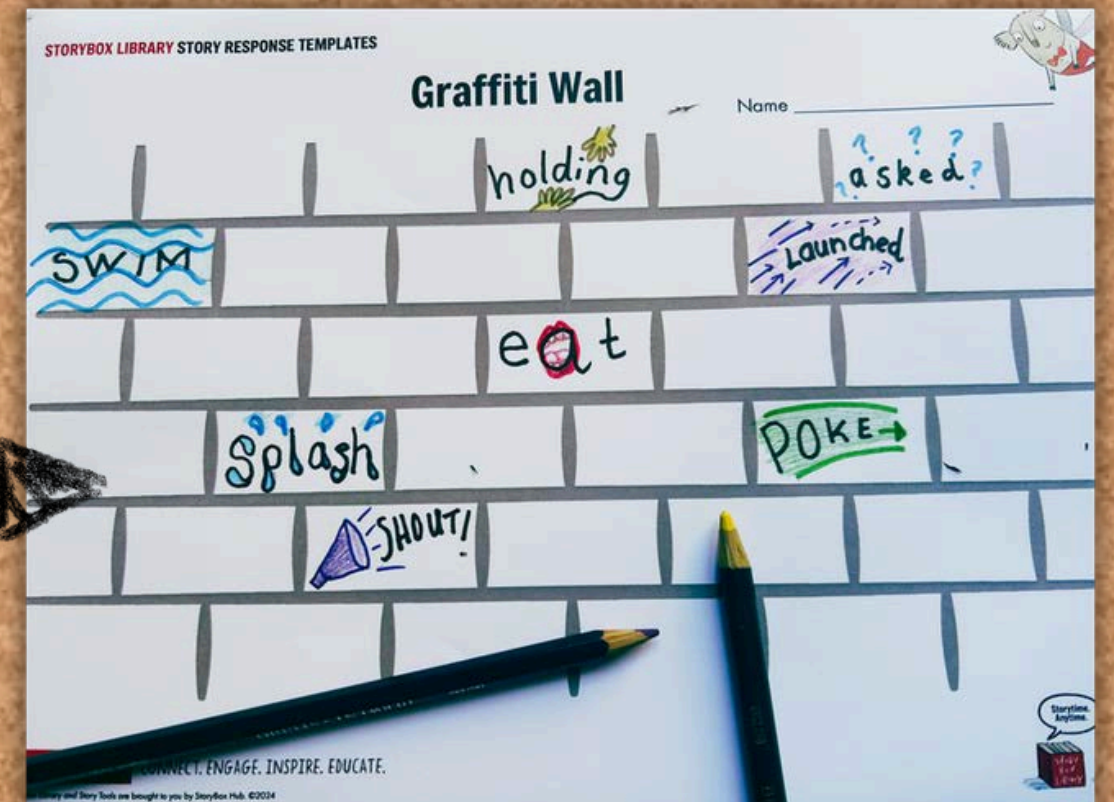
- Find as many interesting doing words in the story as you can. Look for words that tell us how Derek moves, sounds and acts.
- Write the words on the **Graffiti Wall** using different lettering styles and colours to make them look like what they mean.

Use the
Graffiti
Wall
template



SYMPHONY OF STORIES
Illustrator for CBCA: Briony Stewart

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Early Childhood Shortlist

Activity Cards



Frogs catch bugs with their tongues

There are over 7000 types of frogs

STORYBOX LIBRARY STORY RESPONSE TEMPLATES

List

Name _____

TITLE: Awesome Alliteration

- * crawly caterpillar 
- * giant grasshopper 
- * angry ant 
- * busy bees 
- * moody moth 
- * dazzling dragonfly 
- * _____
- * _____
- * _____
- * _____
- * _____
- * _____

Storytime. Anytime. Curiosity. Creativity.



Early Childhood Shortlist

Look. Listen. Wonder



CHILDREN'S BOOK WEEK 2026

DEREK: LOOK, LISTEN, WONDER

CHILDREN'S BOOK WEEK 2026

Name: _____

1 Look

Can you find... a treasure chest?

Scan the QR code to view the story!

DEREK: Written by Anne Donaldson & illustrated by Matt Shanks. Read aloud by Tamara Shehon.

2 Listen

Be curious like Derek and record yourself asking a question that he might wonder about.

Or

Use your voice, hands, or nearby objects to create a 'splash-tastic' soundscape. Record a series of water noises, like ripples, drips, or giant splashes, that could be added to the story.

3 Wonder

Draw (or use a drawing app) to create a new sea creature friend for Derek

What is their name? _____

How could they help Derek feel less alone? _____

SYMPHONY OF STORIES
Illustrator for CBCA: Briony Stewart

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THE EMPEROR'S EGG: LOOK, LISTEN, WONDER

CHILDREN'S BOOK WEEK 2026

Name: _____

1 Look

Can you find... a fish that can fly?

Scan the QR code to view the story!

THE EMPEROR'S EGG: Written & illustrated by Rae Tan. Read aloud by Pius Kung.

2 Listen

Your mystery egg is starting to crack! What kind of noise is coming from inside?

Is it a tiny squeak, a rumbling growl, or a bubbly pop? Try making the sound with your own voice first.

Look around the room. Could you crinkle, tap, or shake an object to make your creature's noise?

Practise your sound effect and get ready to perform it.

3 Wonder

Create an imaginary creature that could hatch from the egg. What could it be called? What special powers might it have?

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Illustrator for CBCA: Briony Stewart

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FROGS ARE OUR FRIENDS: LOOK, LISTEN, WONDER

CHILDREN'S BOOK WEEK 2026

Name: _____

1 Look

Can you find... 3 different types of insects?

Scan the QR code to view the story!

FROGS ARE OUR FRIENDS: Written by Toni D'Alia. Illustrated by Madeline White. Read aloud by Susie Yousef.

2 Listen

Record a quick video or audio clip sharing one 'ribbiting' frog fact.

Use your most exciting storyteller voice to make your listeners go "Wow!"

OR

Make a list of other insect and wildlife noises you noticed in the story.

3 Wonder

Draw a perfect place for a frog to live! Use pens or a drawing app to add:

- a pond to stay cool
- bug-friendly plants
- a shady hide-out.

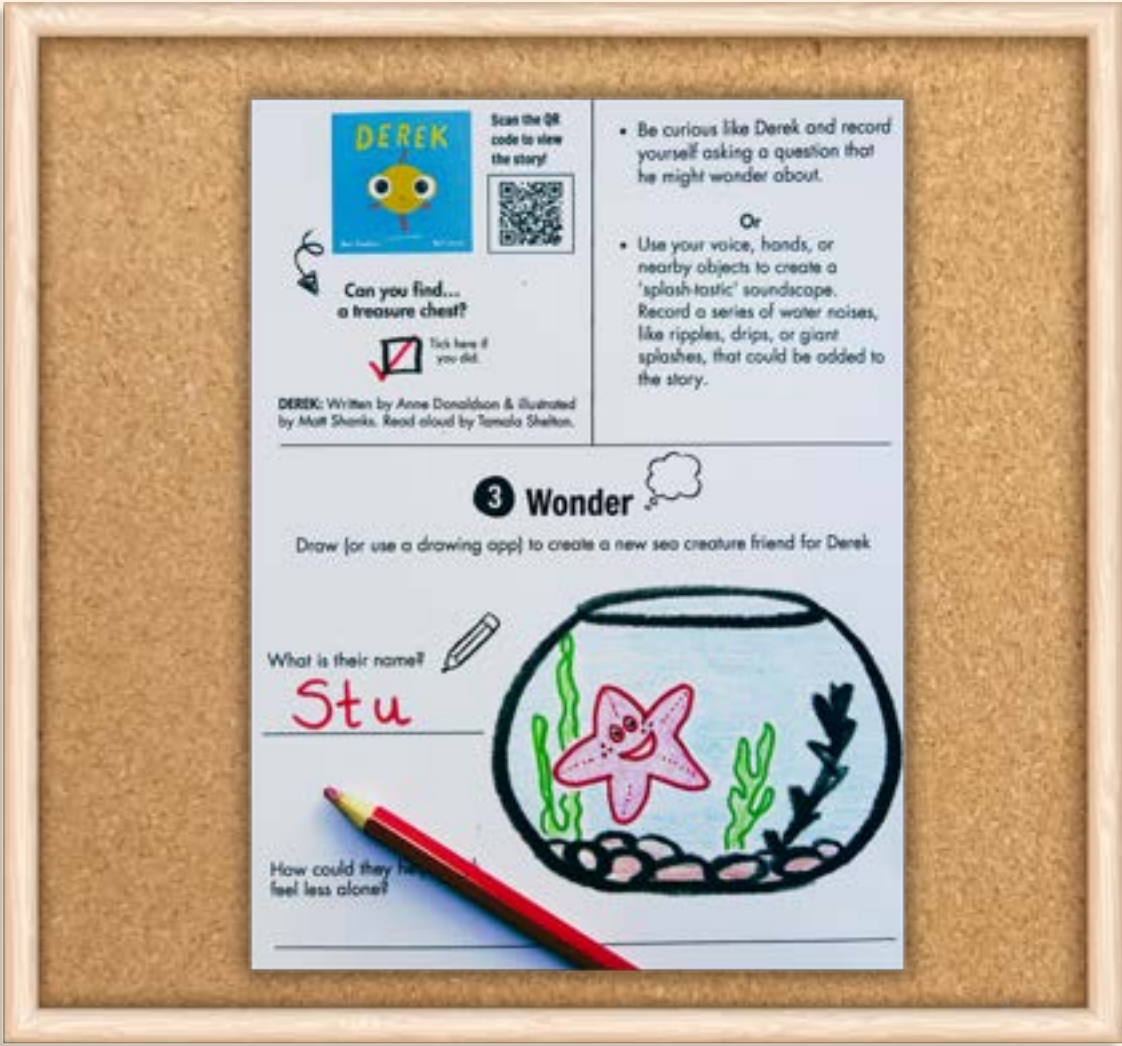
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Illustrator for CBCA: Briony Stewart

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Early Childhood Shortlist

Look. Listen. Wonder



MY NONNO LOVES: LOOK, LISTEN, WONDER

CHILDREN'S BOOK WEEK 2026

Name: _____

1 Look 

 Scan the QR code to view the story! 

Can you find... 2 different fruits in the story? Tick & write what they are.

☐ _____

☐ _____

MY NONNO LOVES: Written & read aloud by Adelle Frittita. Illustrated by Claudia Frittita.

2 Listen 

- Close your eyes and listen to the story. Which sound stood out the most, and what did it make you think of?

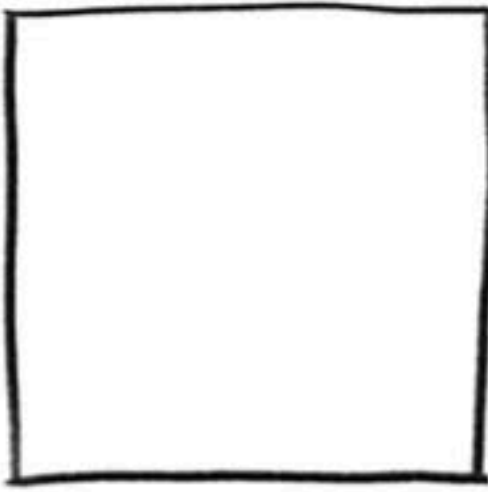
Or

- Can you draw and describe a sound that reminds you of a special grandparent or family member?

3 Wonder 

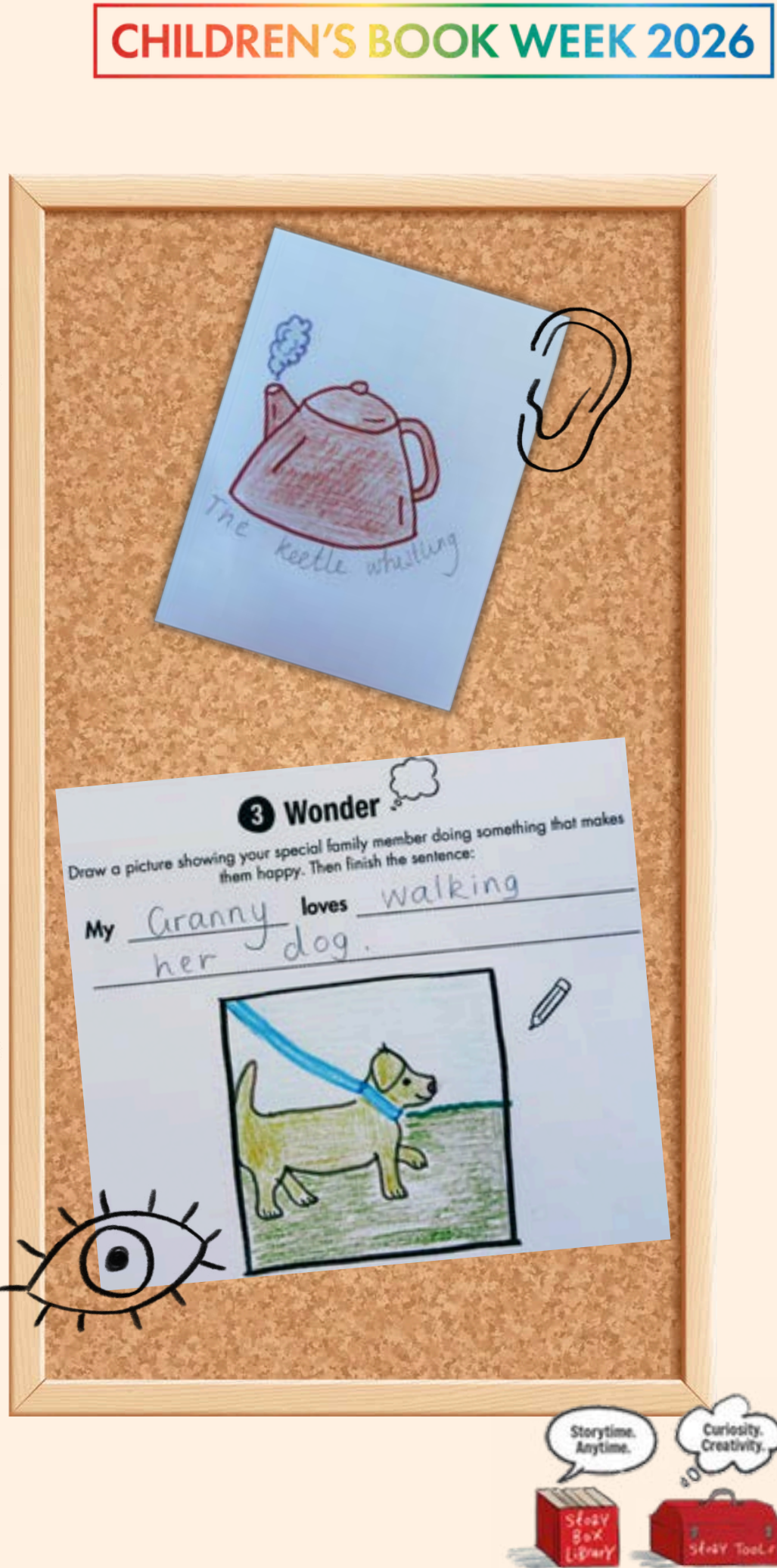
Draw a picture showing your special family member doing something that makes them happy. Then finish the sentence:

My _____ loves _____

SYMPHONY OF STORIES
Illustrator for CBCA: Briony Stewart

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Picture Book Shortlist

Activity Cards



CHILDREN'S BOOK WEEK 2026

DEAR BROCCOLI: ACTIVITY CARDS

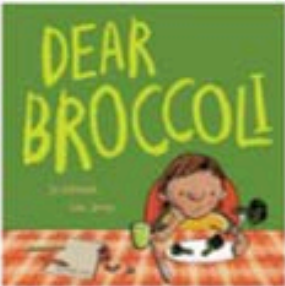
CHILDREN'S BOOK WEEK 2026

Dear Broccoli

Written by:
Jo Dabrowski

Illustrated by:
Cate James

Read aloud by:
Jo Dabrowski



Choose an activity,
then scan the QR code
to print its template.

DEAR BROCCOLI: Written & read aloud by Jo Dabrowski. Illustrated by Cate James.

Dear...

Is there a fruit or vegetable you absolutely don't like? Maybe it's slimy, smelly, or just looks weird? Here's your challenge. Write two letters:

- **Letter 1** - From you to the food: Write a letter to that fruit or veggie telling it exactly how you feel. Why don't you like it? What does it do that grosses you out?
- **Letter 2** - The food writes back! Write a letter from the fruit or veggie trying to convince you to eat it. How does it feel being left on the plate? What makes it awesome?

Use the
Letter
template



DEAR BROCCOLI: Written & read aloud by Jo Dabrowski. Illustrated by Cate James.

Broccoli battle

Instead of deciding if you like broccoli, use a PMI chart to record the arguments made by the characters in the book.

Fill in your PMI Chart:

- **Plus:** What are the positives? (Why is Broccoli good for us?)
- **Minus:** What are the 'negatives'? (What did the characters complain about?)
- **Interesting:** What are some 'what if?' ideas? (How could we change the taste or look of it?)

Use the
PMI
template



DEAR BROCCOLI: Written & read aloud by Jo Dabrowski. Illustrated by Cate James.

Sales pitch!

Imagine you are an advertiser. You need to convince the world that your chosen fruit or veggie is either the best thing ever or a total disaster.

- **The hook:** Start with a question or a bold statement to grab attention.
- **The evidence:** Give three reasons why you are right. (Is it the crunch? The vitamins? The weird smell?)
- **The closer:** Tell your reader exactly what they should do next (eat it or bin it!).

Use the
Persuasive
Planner
template



DEAR BROCCOLI: Written & read aloud by Jo Dabrowski. Illustrated by Cate James.

Master chef

Pick one fruit or vegetable you love. This will be your **star ingredient**. Your mission is to design a 3-course menu that makes this ingredient shine!

- **Starter:** A small dish to start the meal.
- **Main:** A big, filling dish where your ingredient is the hero.
- **Dessert:** A sweet dessert that uses, or goes perfectly with, your star ingredient.

Use the
Menu
Planner
template



SYMPHONY OF STORIES

Illustrator for CBBC: Brianny Stewart

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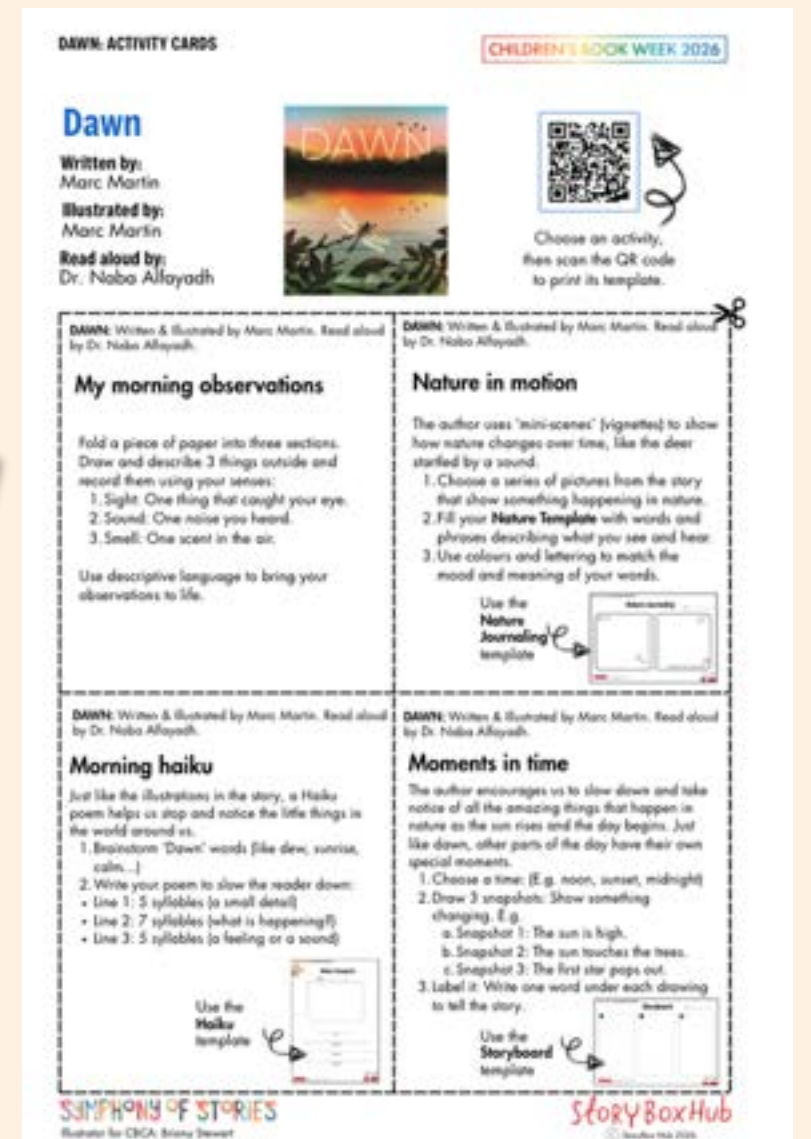
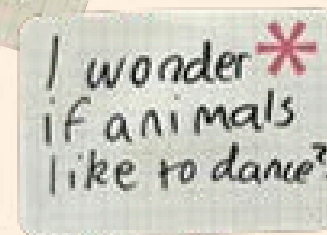
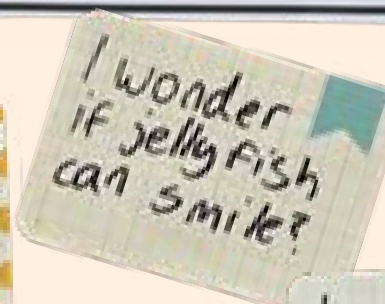
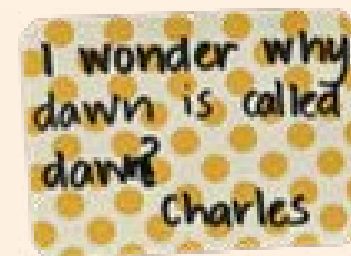
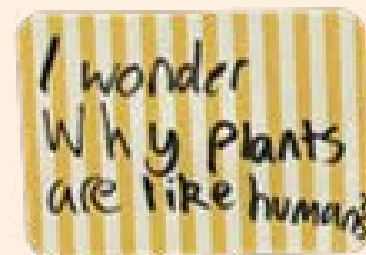
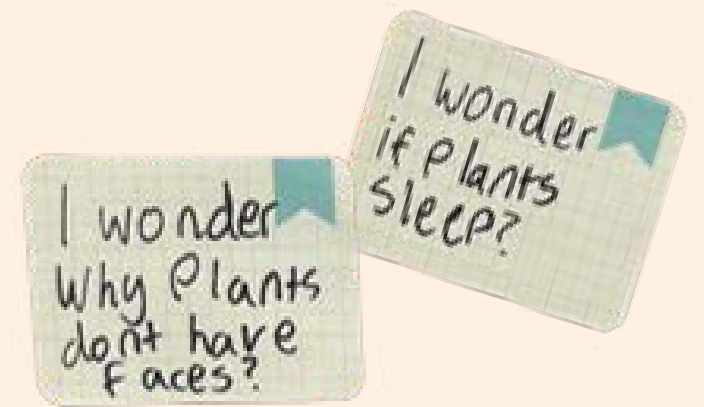
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Picture Book Shortlist

Activity Cards

CHILDREN'S BOOK WEEK 2026



Picture Book Shortlist

Look. Listen. Wonder

Look. Listen. Wonder work can be added to the Wondering Wall



DEAR BROCCOLI: LOOK, LISTEN, WONDER

CHILDREN'S BOOK WEEK 2026

Name: _____

1 Look



Scan the QR code to view the story!



Which 3 foods did Frank discover were actually fruits?

- ✓ _____
- ✓ _____
- ✓ _____

DEAR BROCCOLI: Written & read aloud by Jo Dabrowski. Illustrated by Cate James.

2 Listen



Design a personal soundtrack for a fruit or vegetable character that brings their personality to life!

Once you have decided on their personality (see the 'Wonder' activity below), it's time to build their soundtrack!

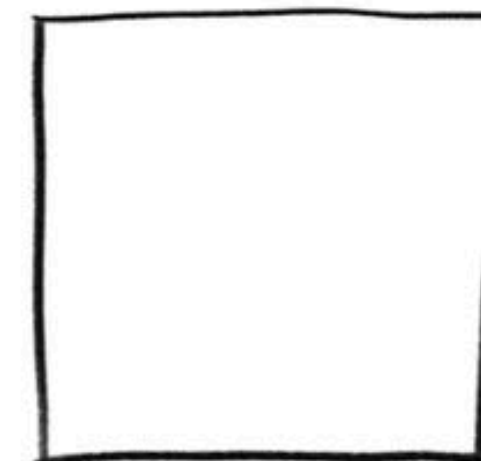
- **Theme music:** What genre fits their personality? (Rock, jazz, classical etc)
- **Sound effects:** What sounds suit them? (Crunching, squelching, sizzling etc)
- **Voice:** How do they speak? (Deep and slow? High and squeaky? etc)

3 Wonder



It's time to bring a vegetable to life, with personality! Choose your veggie hero and give it a fun makeover. Maybe it's a superhero pea, a carrot rockstar - or anything you like!

1. Pick a vegetable →
2. Give it a personality →
3. Add the details that show its personality (i.e. glasses, cape, hair style etc)



SUMPHONY OF STORIES
Illustrator for CBCCA: Briony Stewart

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Picture Book Shortlist

Look. Listen. Wonder

Mini Whiteboards as a reusable option



THE EMPEROR'S EGG: LOOK, LISTEN, WONDER

NAME: _____

1 Look

Scan the QR code to view the story!

Can you find a fish that can fly?

2 Listen

- Your mystery egg is starting to crack! What kind of noise is coming from inside?
- Is it a tiny squeak, a rumbling growl, or a bubbly pop? Try making the sound with your own voice first.
- Look around the room. Could you crinkle, tap, or shake an object to make your creature's noise?
- Practice your sound effect and get ready to perform it.

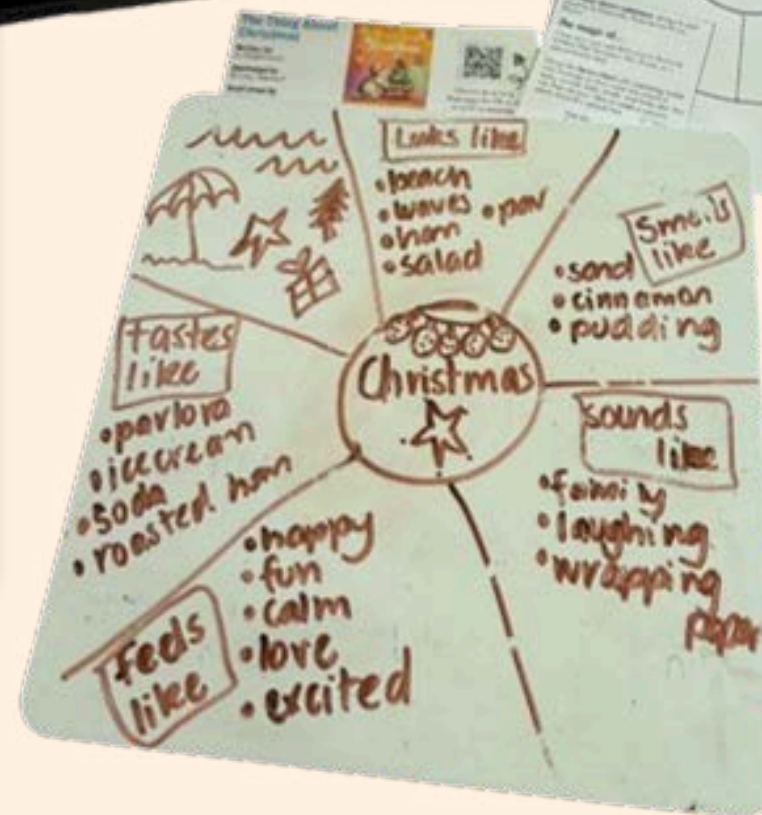
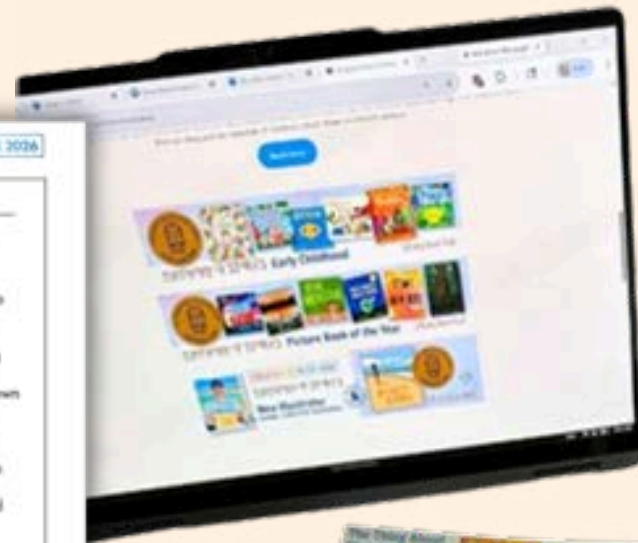
3 Wonder

Create an imaginary creature that could hatch from the egg. What could it be called? What special powers might it have?

THE EMPEROR'S EGG: Written & illustrated by Rex Fung. Read aloud by Rex Fung.

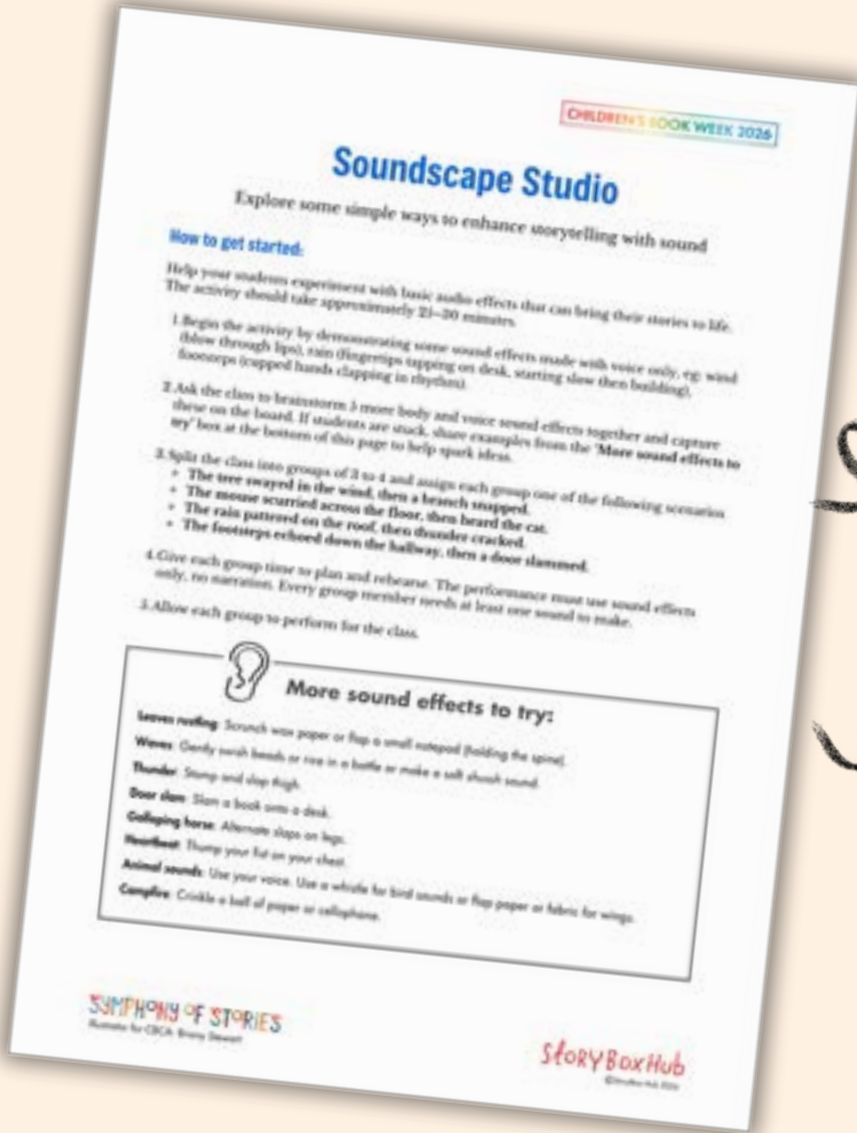
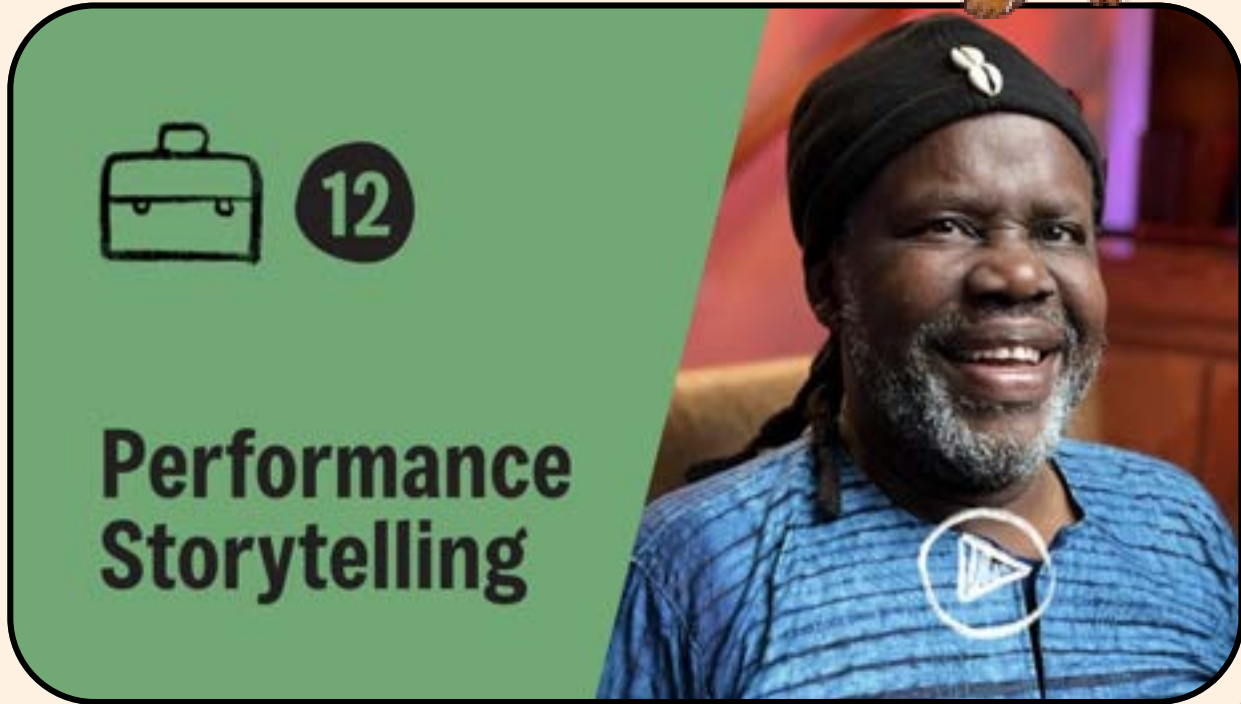
STORYBOX OF STORIES

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Performance Storytelling

Story Tools



Activity Time

Hands-on activities for younger children



CHILDREN'S BOOK WEEK 2026



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Resource Collection Summary

CHILDREN'S BOOK WEEK 2026



For Younger Learners

Early Learning Centres,
Lower Primary



For Schools

Lower, Middle & Upper
Primary



For Libraries

And families

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Release Dates

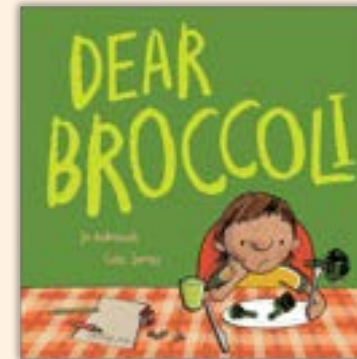
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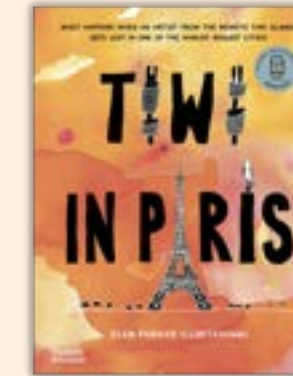
17 June



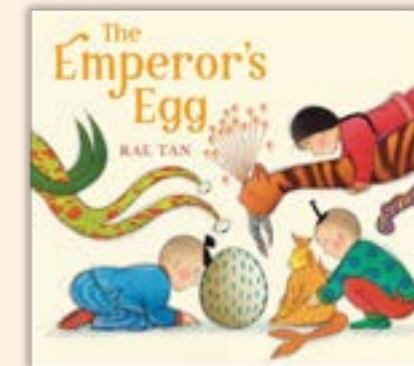
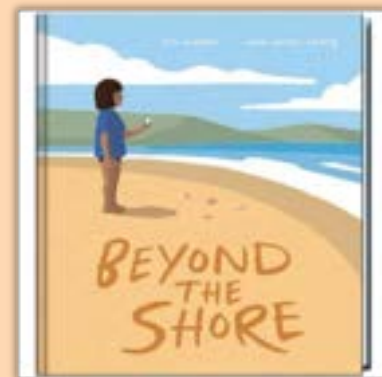
15 July



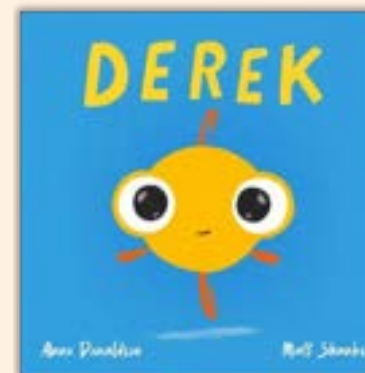
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22 July



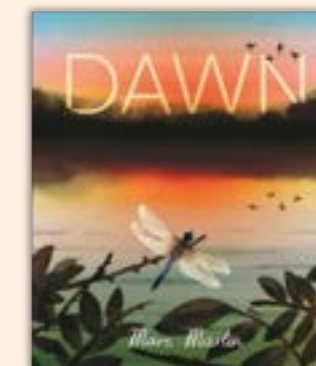
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1 July

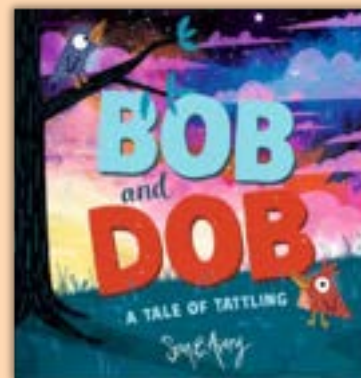


8 July



5 Aug

Released



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STORY BOX HUB

Thank
you!



<https://storyboxhub.com>



schools@storyboxhub.com



Contact us
to find out
more



<https://storyboxhub.com/childrensbookweek>



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