Celebrating CBCA Book Week 2025

MAKE YOUR OWN READING SPACE

Create a special reading space in your home or classroom, and find the perfect book just for you!

80 years
THE CHILDREN'S BOOK COUNCIL OF AUSTRALIA
1945–2025

THE CHILDREN'S BOOK OF THE YEAR AWARDS
THE CHILDREN'S BOOK COUNCIL OF AUSTRALIA
SHORTLISTED BOOK

BOOK AN Adventure

CONNECT. ENGAGE. INSPIRE. EDUCATE.

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Welcome to CBCA Book Week 2025!

An amazing adventure awaits with our special Story Tools Book Week edition of Making a Reading Space – the lesson that's all about books and YOU.

Whatever you love, there's GUARANTEED to be a book that's the perfect fit for you. With the help of this guide, you'll be able to find that made-for-you book – and hopefully lots more to read and love! Then, use the ideas provided to create a special reading space in your home or classroom. Because setting aside a place and time for reading is the perfect way to get lost in a book!

You'll find lots of goodies to try, including:

- A quiz to explore your reading tastes and find the perfect books for you.
- A Reading Journal to set reading goals and keep track of your progress.
- Activities and prompts to fire up your imagination.
- A guide to exploring GENRES and finding the types of books you like best.
- A poster with ideas for creating your own cosy book nook.
- Templates for making a Reading Space sign for your book nook.
- Bookmarks to cut out, colour and personalise for you and your friends.
- The CBCA 2024 Shortlist to explore!

YOU'LL NEED:

- This guide.
- Blank A4 paper (if you would like to make your own reading space signs or bookmarks).
- Scissors.
- Coloured pens or pencils.
- Access to a library or book collection!

Watch MAKING A READING SPACE, Story Tool Series 3, Lesson 12, and hear from Ben McKenzie and CBCA shortlisted author Kirli Saunders about how to create a book nook, and how to find the right books to read inside it.

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MY LOST IN SPACE PLAYLIST QUIZ

Figuring out what YOU love is a great way to discover your reading tastes! Get to know yourself by answering some questions, which will help you find the types of stories you might like to read – and maybe find a spark of a story you'd like to write, too!

Me!

The movies, TV shows, comics or games I love usually feature (circle any that apply):

- Action
- Adventure
- Animals
- Comedy
- Fantasy
- Friendship
- Romance
- Real-world stories
- Space
- Scary stuff
- Suspense
- Supernatural
- Weird stuff

The FIVE favourite things I own:

1. .....
2. .....
3. .....
4. .....
5. .....

FOUR things I like to do in my spare time:

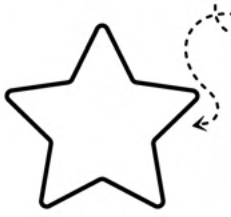
- .....
- .....
- .....
- .....

THREE books I have read and enjoyed: (don't forget the author names)

- ✓ .....
- ✓ .....
- ✓ .....

THREE things I love about my favourite CHARACTER:

(From a book, game, movie, TV show or comic! Write their name here)



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MY LOST IN SPACE
PLAYLIST QUIZ (cont)

NOW FIND A STORY!

Look closely at your answers on page 2 and make some choices:

1. One GENRE I enjoy:
2. One hobby I love:
3. One thing that's important to me:
4. One author I have enjoyed in the past:
5. One type of character I might like:

Use your library to find:
a) A book to read that's the right fit for YOU.
b) A SPARK of a story you would like to write.

THREE new books I've found that feature SOME of the things on my list:

(Note the title and author)

- ✓ .....
- ✓ .....
- ✓ .....

Remember to ask your teacher or librarian if you get stuck!

The book I have chosen to READ!

Based on my list, something I might like to WRITE about:

MY READING JOURNAL

Set some reading goals for yourself. Keep a log of the books you've read, and see if you can WIN your own reading challenge!

My favourite genres (tick any that apply)

- ☆ Action
- ☆ Adventure
- ☆ Fantasy
- ☆ Friendship
- ☆ Animals
- ☆ Comedy
- ☆ Scary stuff
- ☆ Romance
- ☆ Real-world stories
- ☆ Space
- ☆ Suspense
- ☆ Supernatural
- ☆ Illustrated books
- ☆ Manga
- ☆ Historical
- ☆ Graphic novels
- ☆ Non-fiction

My favourite authors:

- ●
- ●
- ●

My all-time favourite books I have read so far:

- ●
- ●
- ●
- ●
- ●

MY READING GOALS:

The number of books I would like to read this month, term or year:

✓ _____

Two new genres I'd like to try:

✓ _____

✓ _____

One thing I can do to make sure I read more:

✓ _____

Two new authors I'd like to read:

✓ _____

✓ _____

Two books I haven't read that I'd like to try:

✓ _____

✓ _____

A book-buddy to share my reading journey with:

✓ _____

MY READING JOURNAL

My name _____

	MY RATING	MY NOTES
Book title: Date read: Author:	☆☆☆☆☆	
Book title: Date read: Author:	☆☆☆☆☆	
Book title: Date read: Author:	☆☆☆☆☆	
Book title: Date read: Author:	☆☆☆☆☆	
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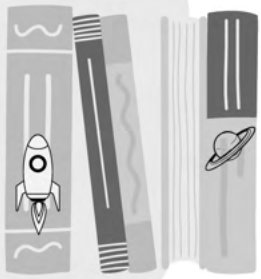
Book title: Date read: Author:	☆☆☆☆☆	
Book title: Date read: Author:	☆☆☆☆☆	
Book title: Date read: Author:	☆☆☆☆☆	

Celebrate CBCA Book Week 2025!

And discover ways to make space in your day for reading with these Reading Space activities to explore!

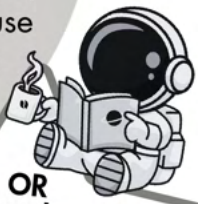
Find the **CBCA shortlisted** books in your library or watch them on StoryBox Hub (see page 14). Use the templates on page 13 to create bookmarks based on your favourite CBCA book. Draw the characters, your favourite illustration, or create bookmarks based on the cover of the book. Make extras for your friends!

Look at the **genre** labels on page 8. Create your own labels for your classroom or home bookcase. Decorate them and attach them to your shelves, then organise your books by genre.

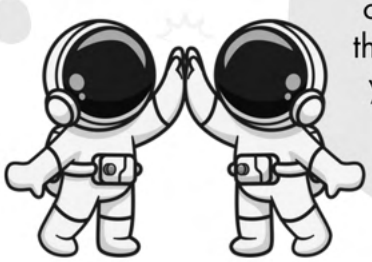


Find the perfect spot to curl up with a book. Try different places — a chair in your lounge, a seat at the dinner table, a rug in your back yard, or propped up on some pillows on your bed. Find the place that works best for you, and designate that as your special reading space.

Choose a theme you love — it could be pirates, space, underwater, the future, fairy town, your favourite animal or sport. Use this theme to decorate your reading space. Make a themed reading space sign using the templates provided, or hand-make decorations, or use old things around your house (just ask an adult first!)



OR create a themed reading space based on your favourite CBCA book!



Afloat, by Kirli Saunders and Freya Blackwood, is about sharing knowledge and gathering community. Read or watch this beautiful story, then find one or more reading buddies to share your reading journey. Organise a book club, make a shared reading space, or use the Reading Journal on pages 4-5 to swap book recommendations.

Find old boxes – shoe boxes are perfect, but any boxes that can fit some books will work. Choose how you'll organise your books — maybe by **genres** or author, or perhaps your 'already read' and 'to be read' piles. Decorate your boxes, label them, and use them to organise books in your reading space.

Read or watch *The Truck Cat*, by Deborah Frenkel and Danny Snell. Yacoub and Tinka make their home in the tiny cabin of a truck, until they find a home of their own. Choose a tiny space in your home — a corner behind some furniture, or a space under your desk — and transform that into a cosy reading cubby.

Read or watch *Everything You Ever Wanted to Know About The Tooth Fairy*, by Briony Stewart. This book tells us that Tooth Fairies love colourful socks and all-day pyjamas, *and* that they spend a lot of time making their tiny homes 'a perfect space just for one'. Make a list of all the things YOU would include to make your special space snug and perfect just for you.
(Page 9 might help you with ideas!)

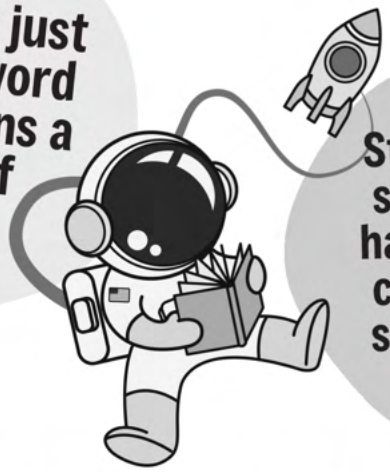
Include a secret spot for treasures in your reading space!

South with the Seabirds by Jess McGeachin tells the true story of four scientists and their journey to the 'edge of the world'. Watch or read this story, then explore the **non-fiction** shelves of your library. Think about the things a friend might like (or ask to look at their **Lost In Space Story Playlist** quiz), and find a non-fiction book you might recommend to them.

In *We Live in a Bus* by Dave Petzold, a family spends a year on a bus called Gracie Joy Rufus Bean, which is decorated with lots of pictures of the things they have seen. Read or watch this story. Create some images of things you have found on your travels and use these to decorate your reading space.

Exploring Genre!

GENRE is just a fancy word that means a TYPE of story.



Stories in the same GENRE have things in common and share similar features.

HISTORICAL	Things in the PAST, ancient cities, long-ago kings and queens, olden-days events and settings
ADVENTURE	Daring escapes and rescues, journeys and voyages, TRIPS to far-away places
SCIENCE FICTION	Space, other planets, the future, time travel, robots, spaceships, ALIENS
FANTASY	Wizards, dragons, made-up kingdoms and peoples, MAGIC, spells, unicorns
ROMANCE	Relationships, friendship, LOVE, dating, hearts & flowers
MYSTERY	Missing things, missing people, investigations, searching, CLUES, crime, solving puzzles
HORROR	Spooky, SCARY things, vampires, ghosts, haunted houses, nightmares
REAL LIFE	School, friendships, everyday LIFE, regular problems and issues of today.
COMEDY	Funny stuff, ridiculous situations, humour, JOKES, farce, slapstick
NON-FICTION	Real life, FACTS, information, statistics, maps, graphs, dinosaurs, dictionaries - there are different non-fiction genres too!

Things to build a book nook

Want to make a cosy reading space? Combine a few of these simple ideas!

Headphoness to block out noise or to listen to music. Nature sounds are great for reading!

Blankets. Beanbags. Pillows. Cushions.

Soft, cuddly toys.

A blow-up pool to sit in. Fill it with pillows!

Plants!

Fairy lights!

Fidget toys or squish balls

A place for your pet to snuggle with you!

A reading fort - all you need is two chairs and a blanket.

A favourite mug for warm drinks, and a plate for snacks!

Something to prop your book on.

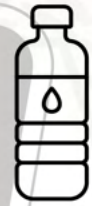
A comfy chair

A tent!

Bunting!

A lamp or torch - good light is important.

A water bottle



A theme - eg pirate cove, space ship, fairy cave, underwater - and decorations to match.

A nice rug!

A place to keep your books. Try a decorated box or collection of boxes.

A warm jumper & slippers or fluffy socks.

Reading goals journal.

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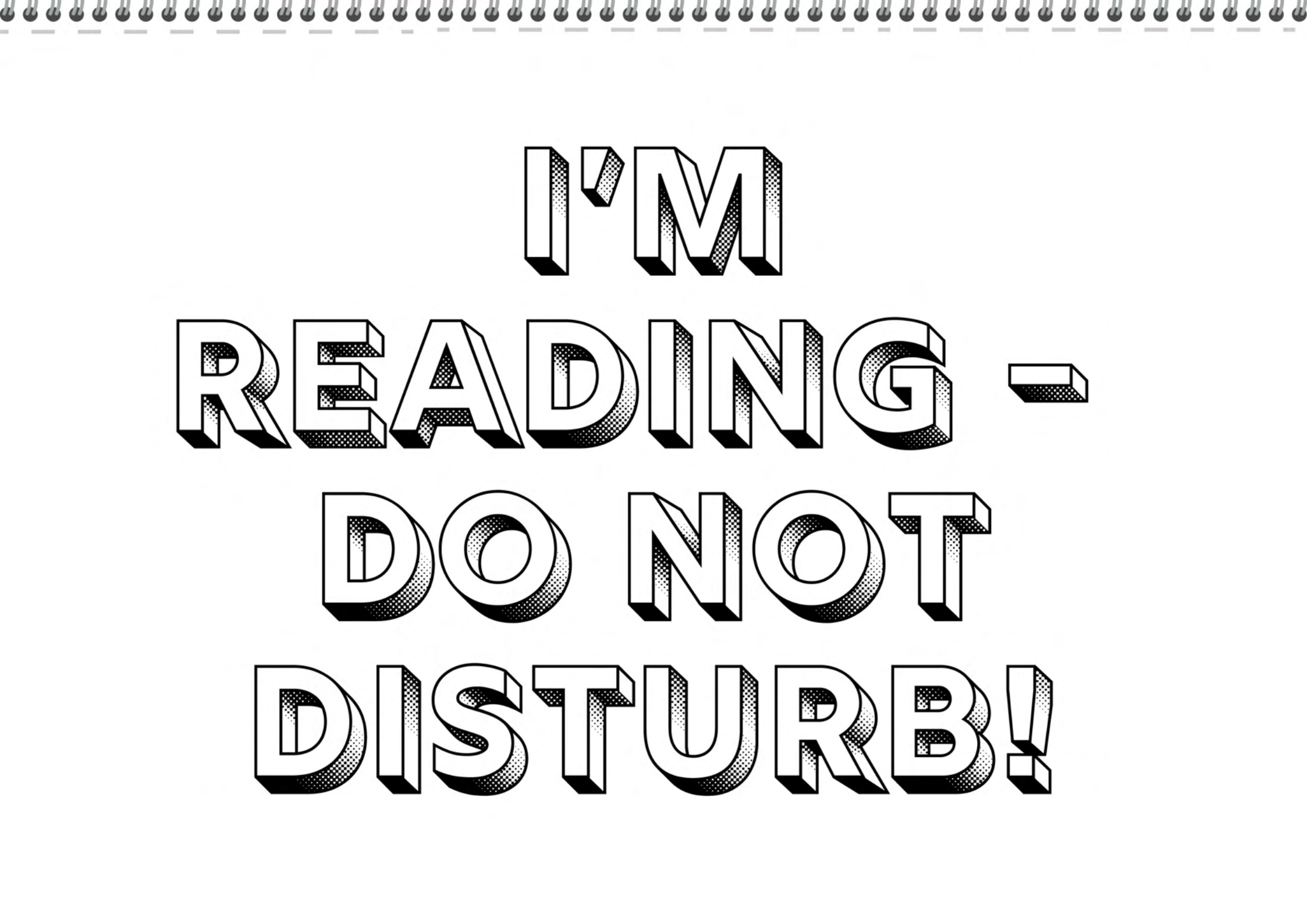
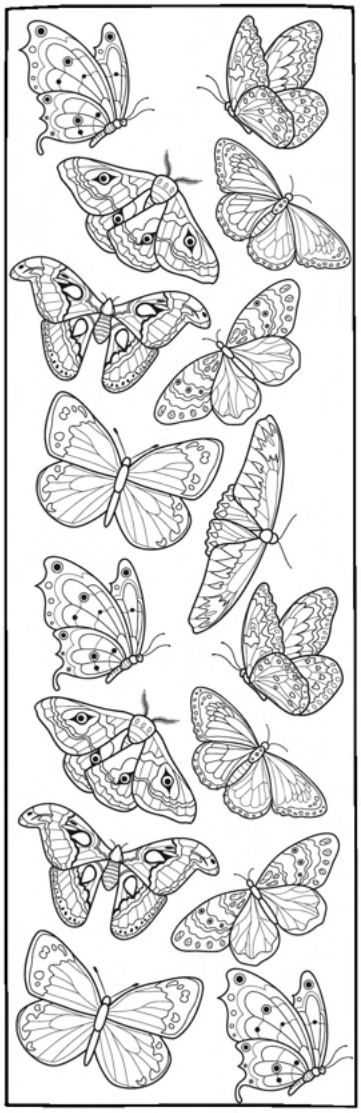
READING ZONE!

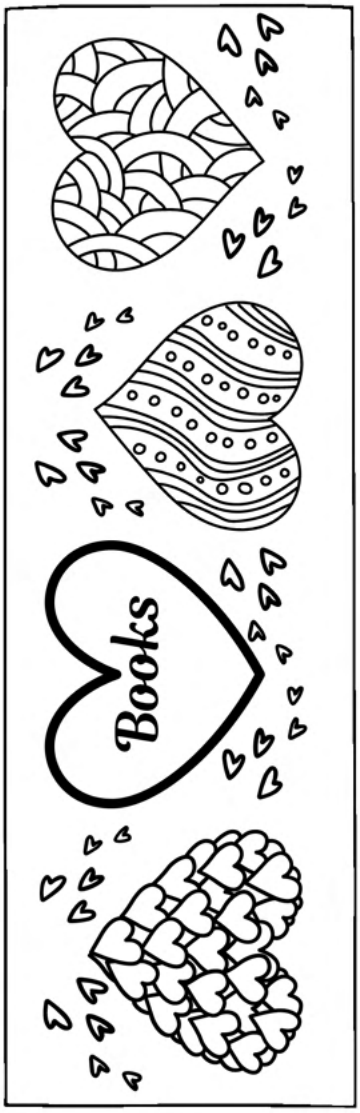

I'M
READING -
DO NOT
DISTURB!

READ

ESCAPE REALITY
READ A BOOK

A GOOD
DAY
ends with
a good
book
_____'s
bookmark




Books

The 2025 CBCA Shortlist

Younger Readers

- ***Aggie Flea Steals the Show*** by Tania Ingram, illustrated by A. Yi
- ***Fluff: Mess Up!*** by Matt Stanton, illustrated by Matt Stanton
- ***Laughter is the Best Ending*** by Maryam Master, illustrated by Astred Hicks
- ***Saskia Spark-Lee: Fundraiser Fail*** by Rebecka Sharpe Shelberg, illustrated by Sofya Karmazina
- ***Tigg and the Bandicoot Bushranger*** by Jackie French
- ***To and Fro*** by Anton Clifford-Motopi

Early Childhood

- ***Don't Worry, Felix*** by Yohann Devezy & Katharine Alice, illustrated by Zoe Bennett
- ***Everything You Ever Wanted to Know About the Tooth Fairy (And Some Things You Didn't)*** by Briony Stewart
- ***How to Move a Zoo*** by Kate Simpson, illustrated by Owen Swan
- ***One Little Dung Beetle*** by Rhian Williams, illustrated by Heather Potter & Mark Jackson
- ***Spiro*** by Anna McGregor
- ***The Wobbly Bike*** by Darren McCallum, illustrated by Craig Smith

All Early Childhood and Picture Book stories, plus other selected stories, are available to watch at STORYBOX HUB

BOOK AN Adventure

Picture Book

- ***Afloat*** by Freya Blackwood, text by Kirli Saunders
- ***The Garden of Broken Things*** by Freya Blackwood
- ***A Leaf Called Greaf*** by Kelly Canby
- ***These Long-Loved Things*** by Ronojoy Ghosh, text by Josh Pyke
- ***The Truck Cat*** by Danny Snell, text by Deborah Frenkel
- ***We Live in a Bus*** by Dave Petzold

Eve Pownall

- ***Always Was, Always Will Be*** by Aunty Fay Muir & Sue Lawson
- ***Design & Building on Country*** by Alison Page & Paul Memmott, illustrated by Blak Douglas
- ***Flora: Australia's Most Curious Plants*** by Tania McCartney
- ***I am a Magpie, I am a Currawong*** by Bridget Farmer
- ***Making the Shrine: Stories From Victoria's War Memorial*** by Laura J Carroll
- ***South With the Seabirds*** by Jess McGeachin

New Illustrator

- ***A Teaspoon of Light***, Nisaluk Chantanakom
- ***Digger Digs Down***, Huni Melissa Bolliger
- ***Grow Big, Little Seed***, Sarah Capon
- ***Peek-a-Boo Lottie***, Kristen Willis
- ***Raymaŋgirrbuy dhäwu***, *When I was a little girl*, Kylie Gatjawarrawuy Mununggurr
- ***The Land Recalls You***, David Cragg & Noni Cragg

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Teacher's notes

Making a Reading Space

Welcome to CBCA Book Week 2025! In this pack, you will find everything you need to run some fun, engaging Book Week session with your group.

In this inspiring lesson, kids will find out how to create their own cosy booknook, the importance of setting aside time for reading, how to discover their own reading tastes, and how to find the perfect book for them. All they'll need is the workbook, scissors and writing/drawing materials, plus access to your library or book collection, or to the StoryBox Hub video library.

Here's how to get started:

STEP 1.

- Review the workbook and the Story Tools Series 3, Lesson 12, Making a Reading Space video lesson.
- Choose how you want to run your sessions: you can give each child the printed 15 page workbook and let them choose which activities to complete, or select from the suggested activities.

STEP 2.

- Watch Making a Reading Space with your group. This video runs for approximately 7 minutes.

STEP 3.

- Distribute the workbook (or selected pages) and run your session!

Access the lesson, Making a Reading Space, and 35 more Story Tools lessons, here.

Explore this incredible resource, and transform your kids' creative writing today!

Not a subscriber? Sign up to trial StoryBox Hub here.

storyboxhub.com

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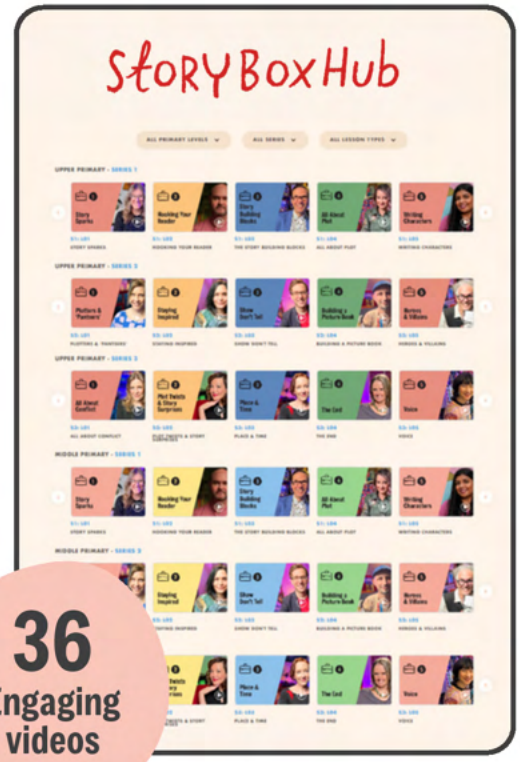
Welcome to Story Tools

Create some story magic in your learning space today

Story Tools is the GAME-CHANGING creative writing toolkit your kids need! Inspire them to confidently create their own stories, with lessons delivered by some of Australia's BEST-LOVED children's writers, illustrators & story-makers.



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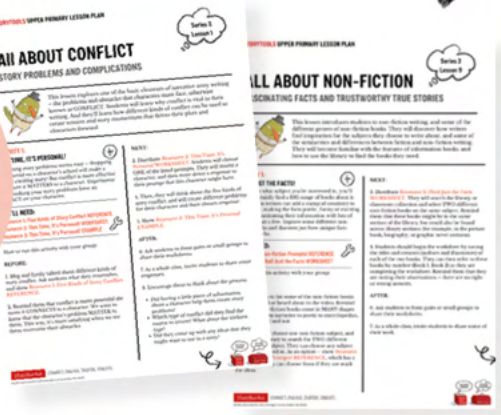
Engaging videos

What is Story Tools?

- An expertly-designed digital resource with FUN, dynamic videos packed with creative writing advice, strategies, examples, tools and tips!
- Downloadable resource packages for middle and upper primary, with step-by-step lesson plans PLUS worksheets, posters, games, prompts, examples, book recommendations and more!
- Easy to incorporate into your creative writing program — follow the lessons in order, or pick and choose to suit your kids' needs.
- NO BORING STUFF! Explore AUSTRALIAN books and stories, and inspire budding writers with authentic advice and behind-the-scenes secrets from real-life creators.

150+
Downloadable resources



Help your kids discover their creative writing spark! Visit the website to find out more.

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