

Wonderful Texts

FOR SECONDARY ENGLISH
CLASSROOMS



Book One | Stage 4 | Years 7 & 8

Compiled by Deb McPherson & Jane Sherlock

Introduction

About

Welcome to Book One of some wonderful texts for high school English classrooms (with included NSW syllabus links). The texts are organized into three stages: Stage 4 (Years 7 & 8), Stage 5 (Years 9 & 10) and Stage 6 (Years 11 & 12). There are new texts, as well as familiar texts already found in many book rooms. Some texts will work across stages, and you can choose texts that suit the needs and interests of your students.

There are sections for multimodal texts (including films and other visual, spoken and digital texts), fiction, drama, poetry, non-fiction, and reference texts. All the texts have been read or viewed. Texts with a ★ will reward close study.

Creating this document has been a work of joy and we hope it reminds you of some of your favourite texts as well as suggesting new texts to consider. Many texts are linked to other texts in different combinations. Texts are accompanied by connections to the 7-10 NSW English Syllabus (2022) syllabus text requirements and possible concept links which could support your program decisions.

Introduction

Organisation

On the **top** of each page is an outline/review of each text for each stage under the following headings:

- Multimodal texts (including, films, websites, streaming and television series, interactives, digital essays, graphic novels, picture books, illustrated poems, infographics, apps, advertisements and other spoken and visual texts)
- Fiction (including extended and short prose)
- Drama
- Poetry
- Non-Fiction (including extended and short prose)

Each outline is followed by connections to NSW English 7-10 Syllabus text requirements, some suggested concepts to explore and connecting texts. The text requirements also specify "texts chosen by students for personal interest and enjoyment" so wide reading and student choice can be a necessary and welcome part of your classroom practice.

Faculties are encouraged to add other ideas and texts from their own book rooms and library as related texts for exploration.

Introduction

Some texts, and their position, may be new to you e.g. *The Uluru Statement from the Heart* appears in the poetry section as well as in the non-fiction section. Paul Kelly said of it: “It has the heart, hurt and urgency of great poetry” and he placed it in his new poetry anthology, *Love is Strong as Death*.

You will also find a Resources Section which provide support about the craft of English teaching. Finally, there are lists of classic poems, novels, plays, speeches, and non-fiction which teachers continue to select for study in secondary schools.

We hope that this document will be helpful to you for the selection of texts for your students.

We know that there are many, wonderful texts to add.

Deb McPherson and Jane Sherlock

*Reading is breathing in, and
writing is breathing out.*

A selection of texts for the English classroom in Years 7–8

Note: texts with a ★ could reward close study

Stage 4: Years 7 & 8 – Multimodal texts (including films, websites, digital essays, graphic novels, picture books, infographics, apps, advertisements and other spoken and visual texts..... 9

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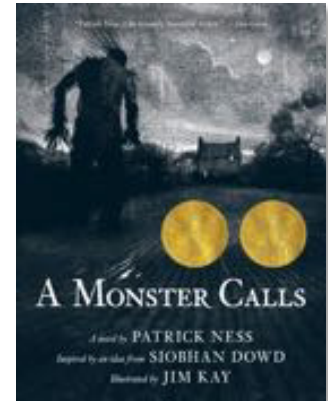


A Monster Calls | Patrick Ness

illustrated by Jim Kay
Illustrated novel
British American



Thirteen-year-old Conor's mother is dying but Conor will not admit this terrible truth and suffers headaches and nightmares because of the conflict in his heart and life. One night, Conor hears his name being called. Gripping his bedroom window is the yew tree from the graveyard on the hill nearby that has transformed into a massive monster. But is Conor frightened and overcome? 'Shout all you want' he says, 'I've seen worse.' And, of course, he has – as he watches his mother decline into the grip of her disease. But the monster is not finished with Conor, and over several nights he tells Conor stories – stories that lead him and the reader to the final, exquisite line in the book. Myth, life and death have rarely been so powerfully combined.



NSW 7-10 syllabus and text connections

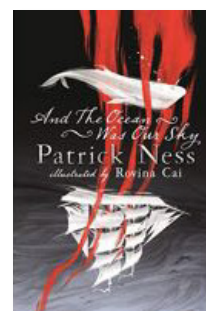
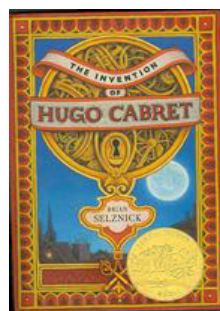
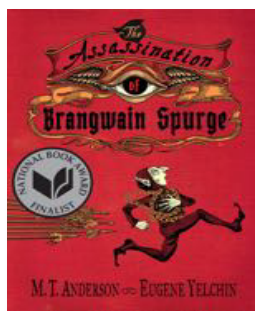
Text Requirements:

Novel, multimodal text

Concepts:

Narrative, Characterisation, Connotation, Imagery and Symbol

Connecting Texts:



Coraline | Neil Gaiman & Craig Russell

(2002)

Graphic novel

British

Coraline finds herself in a parallel universe when she steps through a door in her home. Initially everything seems wonderful, but her new mother and father take on a sinister aspect as want her to stay with them and they never want to let her go. Coraline must be clever and fight to get back to her real parents.



NSW 7-10 syllabus and text connections

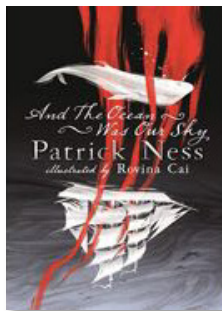
Text Requirements:

Multimodal text

Concepts:

Narrative, Representation, Genre - Speculative Fiction

Connecting Texts:



Earthrise | Amanda Gorman

(2018)

Video Clip Performance

Poem

American



Amanda Gorman performed 'Earthrise' (dedicated to Al Gore and The Climate Reality Project) Her performance 'Earthrise' uses gesture, intonation, and imagery to explore a moment in history and to support action on climate change.

"On Christmas Eve, 1968, astronaut Bill
Anders
Snapped a photo of the earth
As Apollo 8 orbited the moon.
Those three guys
Were surprised
To see from their eyes
Our planet looked like an earthrise
A blue orb hovering over the moon's grey
horizon,
with deep oceans and silver skies ..."

NSW 7-10 syllabus and text connections

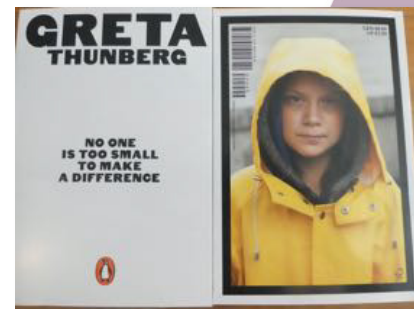
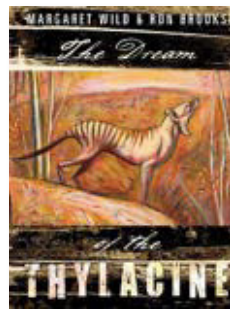
Text Requirements:

Visual, spoken, multimodal and digital text

Concepts:

Context and Perspective, Argument and Authority

Connecting Texts:



Enola Holmes | Harry Bradbeer

(2020) | PG

Netflix

Film

British

Millie Bobby Brown stars as Enola, Sherlock's sister, in this high energy mystery thriller about Enola and her escape from a repressive school and quest to find her missing mother. The film is based on the YA fiction series by American Nancy Springer with screenplay by Jack Thorne. Fast action, humour and a wonderfully feisty protagonist will delight students as Enola uses her sleuthing skills as the film explores independence and equality.



NSW 7-10 syllabus and text connections

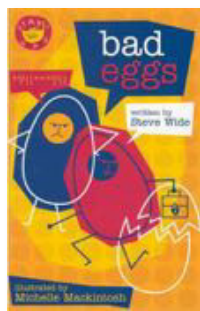
Text Requirements:

Film

Concepts:

Characterisation, Narrative and Genre

Connecting Texts:



Fox | Margaret Wild & Ron Brooks

(2000)

Picture Book

Australian

Fox maliciously disturbs the strong relationship between the one-eyed Dog and the hurt Magpie and threatens their very existence. This story of friendship, freedom and loyalty is a multi-layered story. Teacher resources are available at <https://readingaustralia.com.au/lesson/fox/>



Teaching notes are available at A&U site.

NSW 7-10 syllabus and text connections

Text Requirements:

Multimodal text, Australian authors

Concepts:

Perspective and Context, Narrative, Representation

Connecting Texts:



Hugo | Martin Scorsese

(2011) | PG

Film

American

Martin Scorsese's film delivers a glorious opening sequence that moves across Paris and into the grand sloop into the face of the station clock to discover an eye looking out. It's Hugo's eye of course and we join him in the labyrinthine tunnels and stairs behind the walls of the station as he winds the clocks. The cinematography is quite extraordinary. Asa Butterfield is arresting as Hugo and Chloe Grace Moretz as Isabelle shows warmth and intelligence. Students in Years 7 and 8 will be able to explore the origins of film and compare the different strategies composers employ to tell the same story. While students may not gain the 3D experience in the classroom a close study of book and film will be illuminating.



NSW 7-10 syllabus and text connections

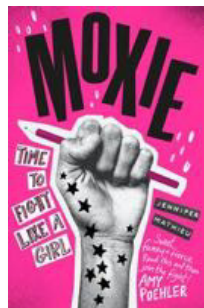
Text Requirements:

Film, youth cultures

Concepts:

Characterisation, Narrative, Perspective and Context

Connecting Texts:



Hunt for the Wilderpeople | Taika Waititi

(2016) | PG

Film

New Zealander



Ricky (Julian Dennison) is a city kid with a few problems and when he is fostered out to the farm of an older couple no one expects him to last very long. But when 'Aunt' Bella unexpectedly dies the authorities want to take Ricky away from his reclusive foster uncle (Sam Neill). Ricky runs away and a reluctant Hector follows. When Hec hurts his ankle and the pair 'go bush' in the wild New Zealand high country the authorities believe Hector has abducted Ricky and launch a massive manhunt. The two must work together to survive and outrun their pursuers. Paula, the dictatorial social worker, and Andy, the police officer, provide great comic relief as Hec and Ricky become unlikely rebels in a fight against an authoritarian and unthinking state. Hunt for the Wilderpeople (as in wildebeest) became the highest grossing locally produced film in NZ and has enjoyed success in Australia. The pig-killing scene is violent and yet decidedly comic, especially when Ricky's response is considered.

NSW 7-10 syllabus and text connections

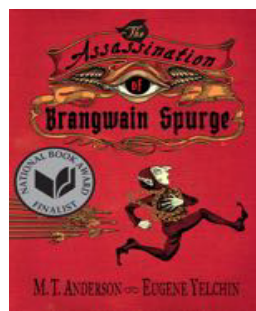
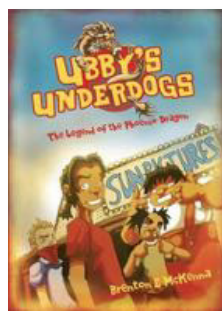
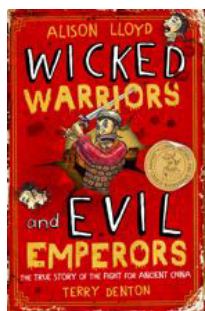
Text Requirements:

Film and youth cultures

Concepts:

Representation, Genre, Characterisation

Connecting Texts:



Inanimate Alice | Kate Pullinger & Chris Joseph

(from 2005 – ongoing)

Digital novel

British

<https://inanimatealice.com>



Inanimate Alice is the story of Alice at different times in her life as she travels with her parents around the world. Her story is told over several increasingly interactive and complex episodes. As Alice grows older the story duration becomes longer and more sophisticated and the interactivity becomes more demanding. In episode one, set in China, Alice is eight and her father has gone missing, and she and her mother set out to find him. In episode two, set in Italy, Alice is ten and in episode three, set in Russia, Alice is growing up. She is thirteen and hiding in an apartment from some sinister figures who are making trouble for her father. It feels like you are in the closet with her. In episodes four and five (Hometown) Alice goes to school and turns 16 in Great Britain. In episode six, (The Last Gas Station) Alice is 18 and at college and stumbling from one crisis to another. Students will enjoy the edgy music, mesmerising video and graphics, embedded puzzles and games, and an invitation to participate in the story.

NSW 7-10 syllabus and text connections

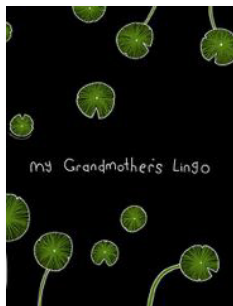
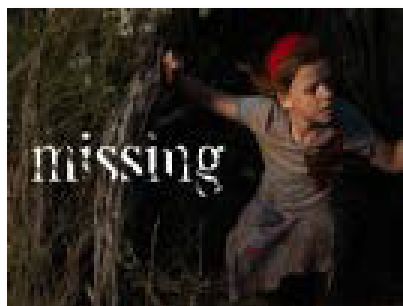
Text Requirements:

Digital text

Concepts:

(Interactive) Narrative, Representation, Perspective

Connecting Texts:



K'gari (Fraser Island) | Fiona Foley & Larissa Behrendt

SBS interactive

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander

<http://www.sbs.com.au/features>



K'gari is a ten-minute interactive experience about a first "fake story" as it retells the story of Eliza Fraser's time on the island from an Indigenous perspective.

Teachers notes available at

https://www.sbs.com.au/sites/sbs.com.au/home/files/kgari_teacher_notes.pdf

NSW 7-10 syllabus and text connections

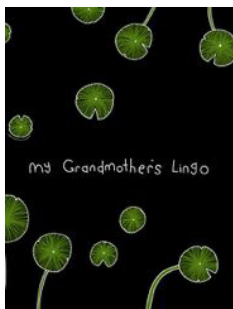
Text Requirements:

Digital text, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander authors, Australian authors

Concepts:

Context, Interactive Narrative, Authority

Connecting Texts:



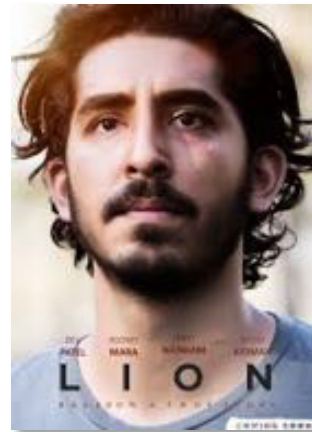
Lion | Garth Davis

(2017) | PG

Film

Australian

Through a series of misfortunes and accidents five-year-old Saroo became lost on a train in India and ended up in Kolkata. He spent traumatic weeks on the streets until being taken to an orphanage. Eventually he was adopted by a couple in Tasmania and brought to Hobart where he grew up, loved and supported by his new mum and dad Sue and John Brierley. As an adult Saroo became intrigued by the possibility of finding his Indian family. Using Google and the few clues he had from his early life he began a painstaking search for his home village where he had once lived. The film shows the importance of technology in helping Saroo find his way back to his birth family.



NSW 7-10 syllabus and text connections

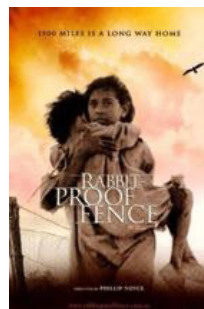
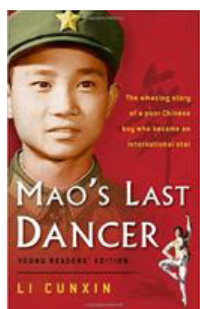
Text Requirements:

Film, Australian author

Concepts:

Narrative, Perspective and Context, Representation

Connecting Texts:



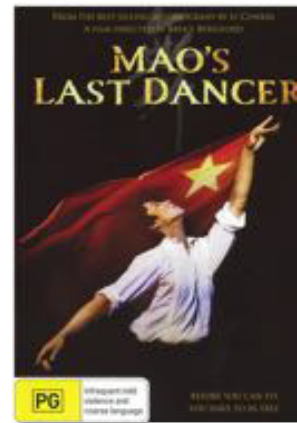
Mao's Last Dancer | Bruce Beresford

(2009) | PG

Film

Australian

Li Cunxin was one of seven boys and grew up in severe poverty in China in the sixties. Selected by chance as a student in Madame Mao's ballet school, he became a great dancer, eventually defecting to the West where he established an international reputation. Most of the book concerns his years in China – in the family village and then in ballet school in Beijing. It's a terrific story of adversity overcome and the early details of life in China are revelatory.



NSW 7-10 syllabus and text connections

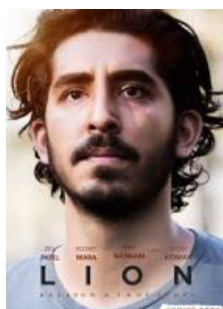
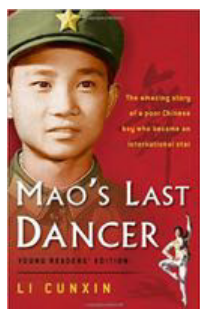
Text Requirements:

Film, Australian author

Concepts:

Representation, Perspective and Context, Narrative

Connecting Texts:

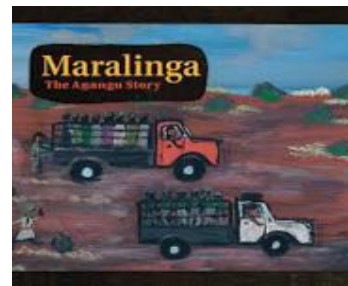


Maralinga the Anangu Story | Yalata, Oak Valley Communities with Christobel Mattingley

(2010)

Picture book

Australian



The Aboriginal community and author Christobel Mattingly detail the history of the Anangu people and the horror of the atomic testing that took place on their land. The text begins with the Dreaming story of the land, the importance of water and bush tucker and then leads into the invasion and the coming of the railway. Individual stories are told in the context of the establishment of the mission, the destructive environmental effects of the railway and the expulsion of the Anangu people from their own land. Then the bombs came. It was not until 1984 that Anangu land transferred back to the original owners and only in 1995 that the British government paid some compensation for their contamination of Anangu country. The authors and illustrators conclude, "Maralinga The Anangu Story is our story. We have told it for our children, our grandchildren and their children. We have told it for you."

Teaching Notes are available at A&U site.

NSW 7-10 syllabus and text connections

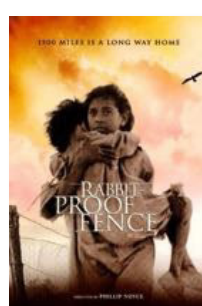
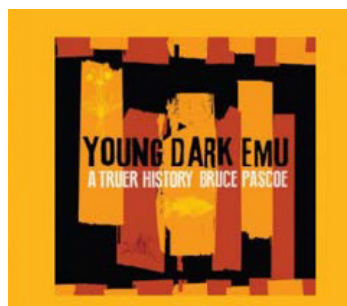
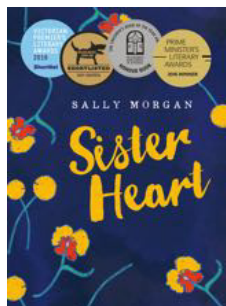
Text Requirements:

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander authors, Australian authors, Multimodal text

Concepts:

Point of View, Representation

Connecting Texts:



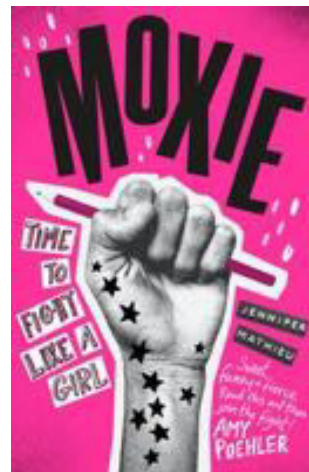
Moxie | Jennifer Mathieu

(2017)

Illustrated novel

American

'Moxie' is a slang term meaning courage, spirit, determination, spunk and attitude and it's the appropriate title of this fiery novel about standing up to sexism at school. Viv Carter is a 'nice' girl at East Rockport High School in Texas, but she is increasingly angered by the gross comments and actions of the football guys at school and the way the administration does nothing to counter them. The novel is creative and engrossing, echoing the wakeup call of these #MeToo and Time's Up days. Use this clever and fierce book with Year 8 or 9 and get students investigating the issues that are important to them in their lives and creating their own zines.



NSW 7-10 syllabus and text connections

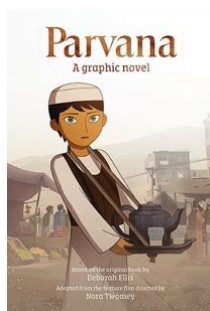
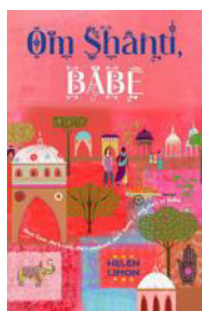
Text Requirements:

Novel, cultural, social and gender perspectives

Concepts:

Point of view

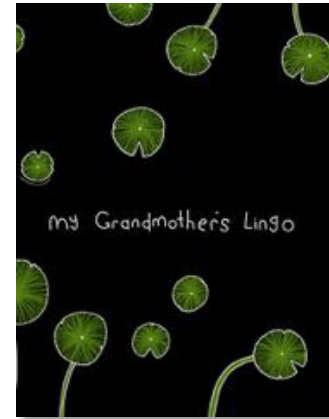
Connecting Texts:



My Grandmother's Lingo | SBS

An example of interactive storytelling
Australian
Digital text

My Grandmother's Lingo is only ten-minutes long, but this digital experience allows listeners to learn several words of an endangered Indigenous language. The instructor is Angelina Joshua, from the remote community of Ngukurr in southeast Arnhem Land. Angelina is trying to save Marra, her endangered language. There are only three fluent-speaking elders remaining in her community.



<https://www.sbs.com.au/mygrandmotherslingo/>

NSW 7-10 syllabus and text connections

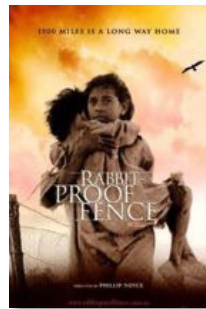
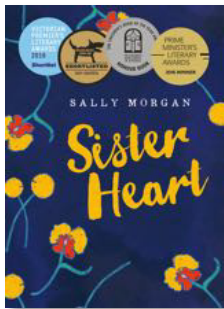
Text Requirements:

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander author, Australian author, cultural and social perspectives

Concepts:

Perspective and Context, Representation, Authority

Connecting Texts:



Poppy Field | Valentina D' Efilippo & Nicolas Pigelet

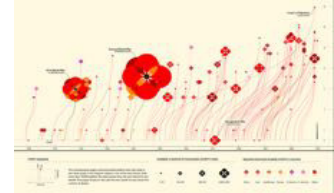
(2015)

Infographic

first published on

The Infographic History of the World Nov

<https://www.poppyfield.org>



An infographic is a creative way to take a “thousand words” and depict them using a picture. Inspired by the poem “In Flanders Fields,” this infographic uses the remembrance poppy to commemorate soldiers who have fallen in war. The size of the poppies as well as their colours represent key statistics for the graph. The unusually creative depiction of war facts gives readers a fresh new perspective on the subject matter.

NSW 7-10 syllabus and text connections

Text Requirements:

Visual, digital text, from around the world, cultural and social perspectives

Concepts:

Representation, Context and Perspective

Connecting Texts:

A collection of the best infographics <https://makeawebsitehub.com/best-infographics/>

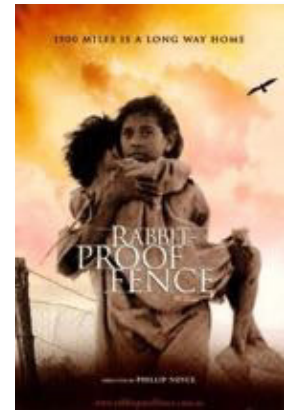
Rabbit Proof Fence | Phil Noyce

(2002)

Film PG

Australian

Phillip Noyce's film is based on fact. The screenplay by Christine Olsen is based on a book by Doris Pilkington Garimara, an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander author, telling the story of the experiences of her mother, Molly (then 14), her aunt Daisy (then 8) and their cousin Gracie (then 10). Taken from their families by government officials, they were transported some 1,500 miles to a training school, where they were forbidden to use their own language. The girls run away, are captured, escape again and start walking toward their country. It will be a journey of 1,500 miles.



NSW 7-10 syllabus and text connections

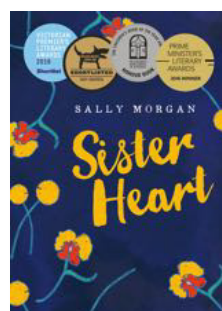
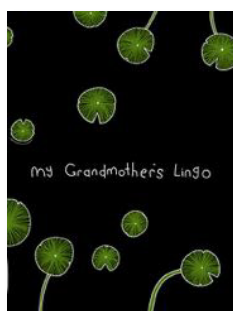
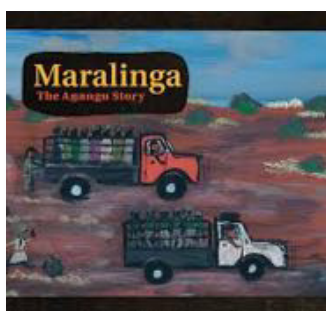
Text Requirements:

Film, Australian director, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander author, Australian author, intercultural and diverse experiences

Concepts:

Context and Perspective, Representation, Narrative

Connecting Texts:



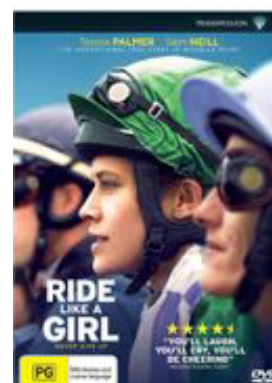
Ride Like A Girl | Rachel Griffiths

(2020)

Film PG

Australian

Based on the true story of Michelle Payne, the first female jockey to win the Melbourne Cup in 2015. The narrative component is strong, and the characters are very endearing. It would work well for Year 7 and 8. The appeal of a true story adds to its versatility.



NSW 7-10 syllabus and text connections

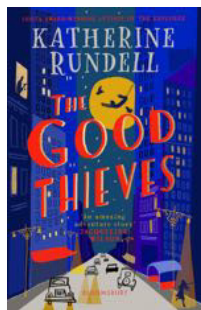
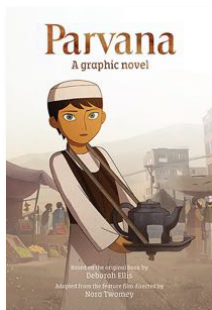
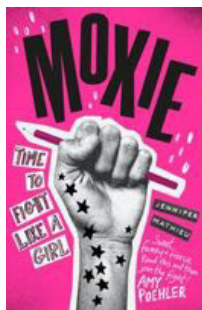
Text Requirements:

Film, Australian director, cultural, social and gender perspectives

Concepts:

Narrative, Genre, Characterisation

Connecting Texts:



Rules of Summer | Shaun Tan

(2013)

Picture book

App

Digital text

Australian



Two siblings experience a summer holiday full of threat and peril as 26 paintings demonstrate the often-surreal rules of summer. What sort of rules would you expect to grow out of a summertime holiday? Shaun Tan never gives us exactly what we might expect and rules such as “Never take the last olive at a party” seem much more menacing in the app. It delivers an astonishing visual as we pull back from the sole olive on the plate! The app adaptation of Tan’s recently picture book would be an excellent text to explore perspective and salience.

NSW 7-10 syllabus and text connections

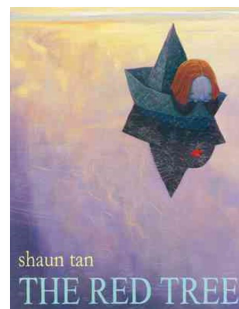
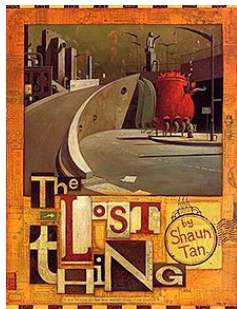
Text Requirements:

Digital and multimodal, Australian author, youth cultures

Concepts:

Representation, Point of view, Connotation, Imagery and Symbol

Connecting Texts:

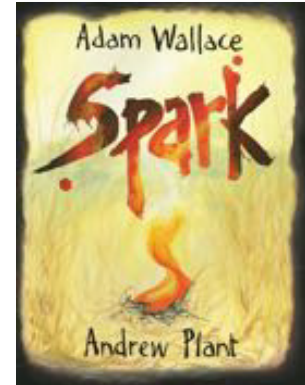


Spark | Adam Wallace & Andrew Plant

(2016)

Picture book

Australian



This simple picture book is aimed at a preschool audience, but it is a powerful example of personification that could have wide appeal for its minimalism and its message. The wind helps its friend, the spark, and soon things get out of control and the fire burns across the land. The spark wants to stop but it can't get the wind to die down and the landscape is devastated. Finally, the wind listens but it is too late. I saw where I had been, What I had done. What I had destroyed. The final image is of regeneration as a green shoot emerges from a blackened grass tree. Spark is a vivid and simple text that could be used to explore imagery and the frightening power of the bushfire.

NSW 7-10 syllabus and text connections

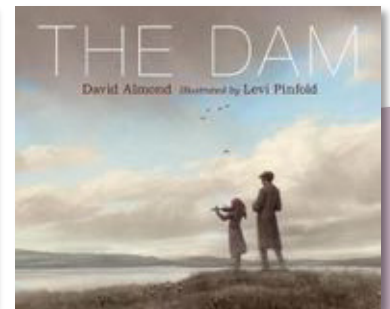
Text Requirements:

Multimodal text

Concepts:

Perspective and Context, Connotation, Imagery and Symbol, Narrative

Connecting Texts:



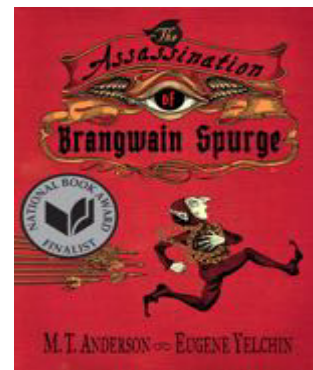
The Assassination of Brangwain Spurge | MT Anderson & Eugene Yelchin

(2018)

Graphic Novel

American

Brangwain Spurge, elf historian, is asked by his old school bully, Lord Ysoret Clivers, Order of the Clean Hand, to spy on the Goblin kingdom under cover of taking a gift to the Goblin king. Clivers doesn't disclose that the sparkling gem is a bomb to blow up the goblin king which will almost certainly kill Spurge as well. He will be hosted in the Goblin capital by Werfel, the Archivist, (one of the nicest characters to be encountered in literature), a Goblin historian at the Court of the Mighty Ghohg. Werfel is so excited to meet his counterpart historian and is crestfallen when Spurge is rude and culturally ignorant. But Werfel shoulders on trying to share all the Goblin delights he can with his ungrateful visitor. While Brian Selkirk's graphic novels, such as *The Invention of Hugo Cabret* might be a precursor, what Anderson and Yelchin do is create another genre in which the words and the images don't complement; they contradict each other. What a lesson for students as the pictures are frauds and represent an unreliable visual narrator in a book, just like some of the fake and photoshopped images on their mobile screens.



NSW 7-10 syllabus and text connections

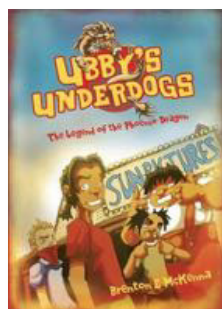
Text Requirements:

Multimodal text from around the world about intercultural and diverse experiences

Concepts:

Representation, Theme, Genre

Connecting Texts:



The Boat | Nan Le & Matt Huynh

SBS interactives

Digital text

Australian

<http://www.sbs.com.au/features>



The Boat is a short interactive digital narrative that explores the journey of Vietnamese refugees. As a viewer, you sway with the boat's journey and suffer through the storm and piracy. The interactive graphic novel is an involving and emotional experience. The narrative is illustrated by Vietnamese-Australian artist Matt Huynh, whose parents fled Vietnam after the war. SBS have adapted the title short story from author Nan Le's award-winning anthology. There are also excellent teaching activities available to download at the site including video clips with the artist and explorations of setting and character.

<http://www.sbs.com.au/theboat/>

NSW 7-10 syllabus and text connections

Text Requirements:

Digital text, Australian authors, about intercultural and diverse experiences

Concepts:

(Interactive) Narrative, Representation, Context and Perspective

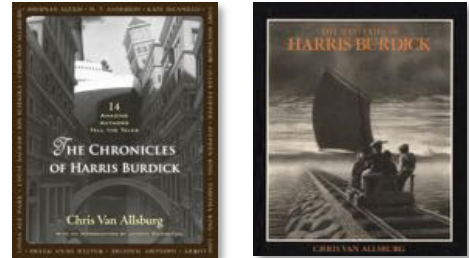
Connecting Texts:



The Chronicles of Harris Burdick | Chris Van Allsburg

(2011)

American



Stories inspired by The Mysteries of Harris Burdick Chris Van Allsburg (1984) This wonderful collection of authors including Lois Lowry, MT Anderson, Louis Sachar and Stephen King responds to the enigmatic illustrations of the equally mysterious Harris Burdick. Here are models of writing for students as they read and view and find inspiration.

NSW 7-10 syllabus and text connections

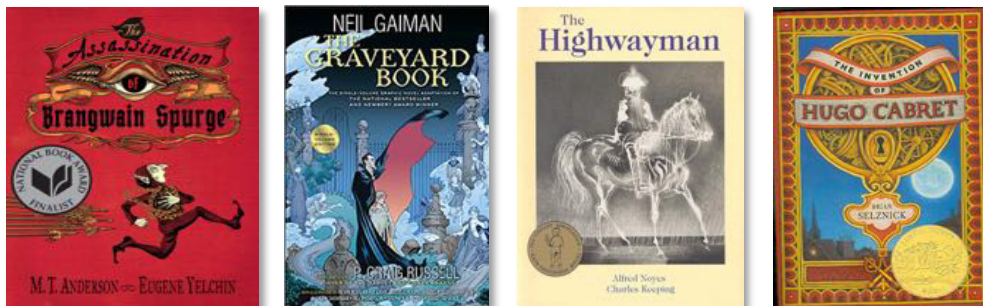
Text Requirements:

Multimodal text from around the world

Concepts:

Representation, Connotation, Symbol and Imagery

Connecting Texts:



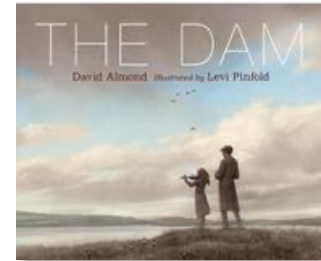
The Dam | David Almond & Levi Pinfold

(2018)

Candlewick Studio

Picture book

British



The writer and illustrator have collaborated in this poignant record of a true story of the Northumberland landscape and the power of music. Mike and Kathryn tell the story of the building of a new dam and what is lost from the environment and of how the music they play captures and celebrates that loss.

NSW 7-10 syllabus and text connections

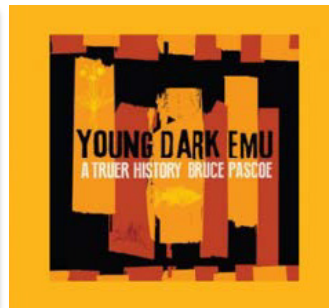
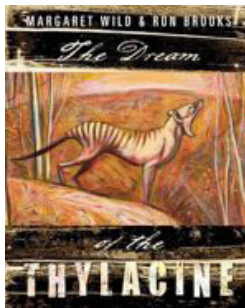
Text Requirements:

Multimodal text from around the world, cultural and social perspectives

Concepts:

Narrative, Perspective and Context

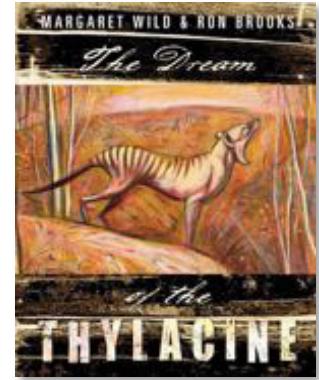
Connecting Texts:



The Dream of the Thylacine | Margaret Wild & Ron Brooks

(2011)

Picture book
Australian



This is the story of a captive thylacine that longs for the freedom of its natural world. The story is told from the point of view of the thylacine and opens with the tiger as it prowls, rages and growls in its cage of concrete and twisted wire but dreams of freedom in the 'wild lands'. The story moves between the natural landscape of the tiger's dreams and the despair of its caged existence. Margaret Wild's lyrical prose is rich in its capacity to evoke both the despair of the animal and the beauty of the natural landscape. *The Dream of the Thylacine* raises our awareness of the need for respect of the wider ecosystem and the plants and animals that have and do inhabit our earth. Teaching Notes are available at A&U site.

NSW 7-10 syllabus and text connections

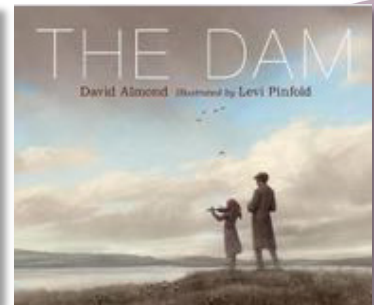
Text Requirements:

Multimodal text, Australian authors

Concepts:

Representation, Connotation, Imagery and Symbol

Connecting Texts:



The Graveyard Book Vol 1&2 | Neil Gaiman

illustrated by P Craig Russell
(2014)
Graphic novel
British



What a delight to see Neil Gaiman's classic story of the graveyard that raises an orphaned baby, retold in graphic form. Nobody or Bod's family have been murdered in one of the scariest beginnings to any story and the graveyard ghosts decide to support him. Mr and Mrs Owen take on the roles of his mum and dad and Silas, the graveyard vampire, becomes his guardian and wise adviser. Bod is given the freedom of the graveyard and as he grows up, he encounters perils such as ghouls and classroom bullies. But all the time the reader/viewer is conscious of the threat that is hanging over him, and the care and concern of his guardian and friends. The return of Jack, the killer, and his masters, to finish off what they started makes for a powerful conclusion.

NSW 7-10 syllabus and text connections

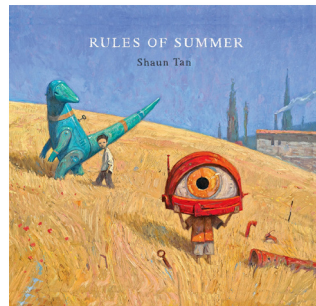
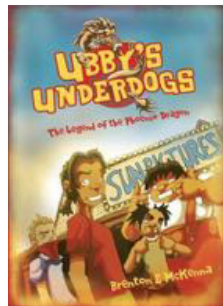
Text Requirements:

Multimodal text, from around the world about diverse experiences

Concepts:

Representation, Theme, Genre

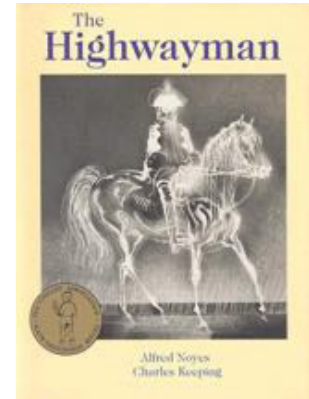
Connecting Texts:



The Highwayman | Noyes & Keeping

(1987)

Illustrated poem
British



This text combines the original poem, a popular ballad, with striking black-and-white illustrations. The poem is set in seventeenth-century England and tells the story of a highwayman, who is in love with Bess, the daughter of the local innkeeper. It is the dramatic story of the two lovers, who are killed and whose ghosts haunt the inn and highway forever. This is a wonderful way to explore a traditional text from the English Canon. Be sure to share Lady of Shalott with Stage 6 and Craft of Writing.

NSW 7-10 syllabus and text connections

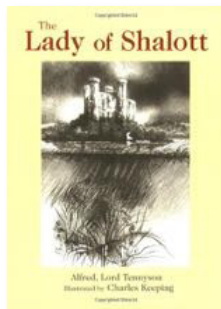
Text Requirements:

Poetry and multimodal text from around the world

Concepts:

Narrative, Representation, Connotation, Imagery and Symbol

Connecting Texts:



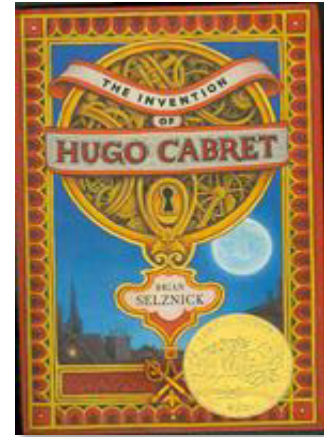
The Invention of Hugo Cabret | Brian Selznick

(2007)

Graphic novel

American

The Invention of Hugo Cabret is the story of an early pioneer of film. Twelve-year-old Hugo is left to look after himself and live in the clock at the Paris train station. Hugo keeps the clocks running and steals to keep himself alive. When the owner of the station toyshop catches Hugo, he takes the boy's father's notebook. Hugo tries to buy it back by fixing a mechanical toy. Together they try to solve the mystery of the automaton Hugo had found in the rubble of the fire that killed his father. The toymaker is revealed to be filmmaker Georges Méliès and his despair and anger at the loss of his films turn to joy as his craft and art are re-discovered. Selznick uses pages of pictures to tell the story not just illuminate it. He moves the narrative from reading print to viewing. The book appears massive and yet reading time is short as the pictures carry so much of the narrative. Students who are daunted by reading large books may find some inspiration in how easily they will read this one.



NSW 7-10 syllabus and text connections

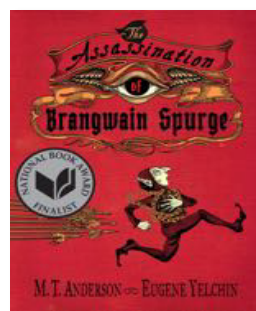
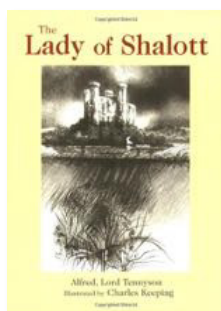
Text Requirements:

Multimodal text from around the world about diverse experiences

Concepts:

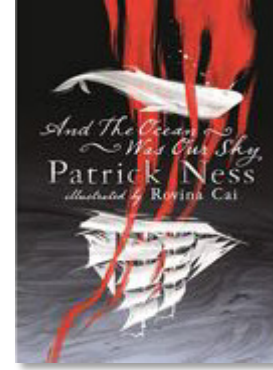
Narrative, Representation, Theme

Connecting Texts:



The Ocean Was Our Sky | Patrick Ness

illustrated by Rovina Cai
(2018)
Illustrated novel
American



In a reversal of Moby Dick, the war between humans and whales is told here from a whale's perspective. "Call me Bathsheba" is the opening line, echoing the famous first sentence in Melville's epic story. Bathsheba is a young and innocent whale, a junior officer to the relentless Captain Alexandra who, hungry for revenge against the infamous Tom Wicks, is hunting his white hulled ship. The title explains how the human perspective in the ocean is inverted and Cai's haunting and melancholy illustrations echo the sadness in the book as Bathsheba must consider what she values, and where the good and evil lie in this ocean.

NSW 7-10 syllabus and text connections

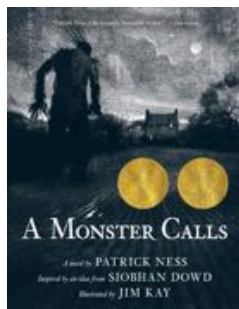
Text Requirements:

Multimodal text from around the world

Concepts:

Narrative, Point of view, Intertextuality

Connecting Texts:



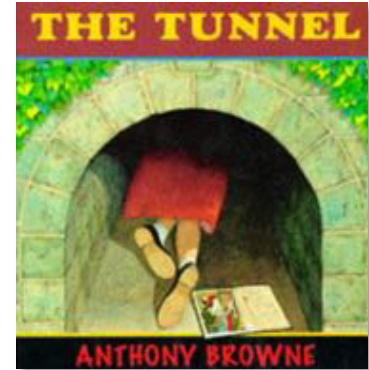
The Tunnel | Anthony Browne

(1989)

Picture book

British

A sister forgets the quarrels she has had with her brother and attempts a rescue that demonstrates the power of her affection. This picture book, with its allusions to other folk tales, would make a good introduction to the use of intertextuality; it is also a fascinating exploration of a sibling relationship. Anthony Browne deserves an author study and a text like *Piggybook* is clever in its intertextual references and elevates Browne beyond Stage 2 and 3.



NSW 7-10 syllabus and text connections

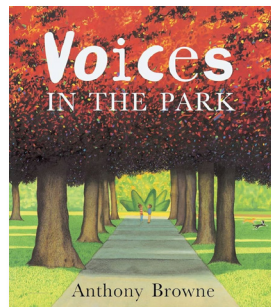
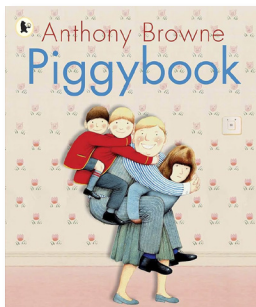
Text Requirements:

Multimodal text from around the world

Concepts:

Representation, Intertextuality, Narrative

Connecting Texts:



Ubby' s Underdogs: The Legend of the Phoenix Dragon | Brenton E McKenna

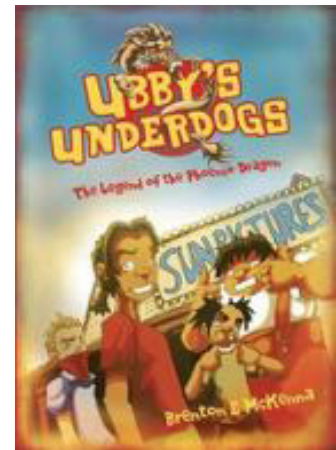
(2011)

Graphic novel

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander

Australian

This graphic novel set in Broome has colour, plenty of action and striking characterisation as well as deadpan humour that all add to the reader's enjoyment of the tale. The Underdogs are a gang, led by Ubby, a tough, streetwise Aboriginal girl. When Ubby helps Sai Fong, a Chinese girl who has come to Broome with her Uncle, little does Ubby know she will become embroiled in a world of magic and mystery. The text is full of interesting characters, from a chess playing ghost baboon to a deadly war crown spider. A sandpaper dragon from Aboriginal mythology is woken from its slumbers, while sorcerers and other gangs do battle. Teacher resources available at:



<https://readingaustralia.com.au/lesson/ubbysunderdogs/>

NSW 7-10 syllabus and text connections

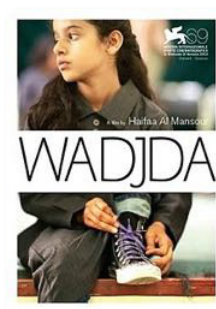
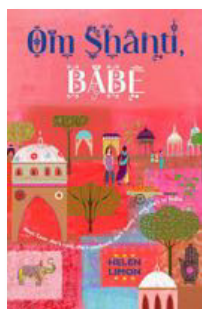
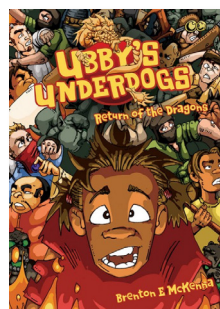
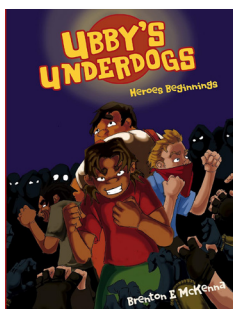
Text Requirements:

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander author, Australian author, multimodal text, intercultural and diverse experiences and youth cultures

Concepts:

Narrative, Representation, Genre

Connecting Texts:



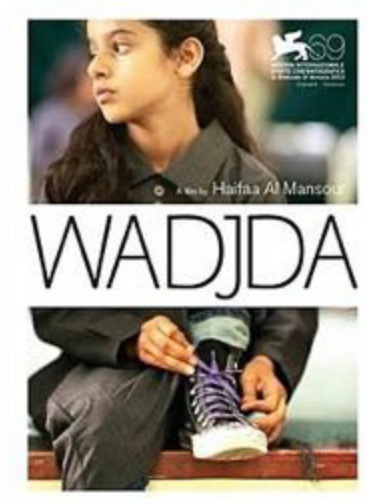
Wadjda | Haifaa Al-Mansour

(2012)

Film PG subtitles

Saudi Arabian

This is the first fictional film made in Saudi Arabia. Ten-year-old Wadjda dreams of owning a bike. She lives in the suburbs of Riyadh, the conservative capital of the very conservative Saudi Arabia. Her mother works but has to have a male driver to take her and other women to their employment, as women here are prevented from driving. Her father is not often at home and it is suggested he is looking for a second wife. Wadjda is feisty and defiant as she pushes back against the conventions that define her life. She wants to race bikes with her male friend, Abdullah, and schemes to get the money to buy the green bike she desires. There is humour, drama and a wonderful window into a very different culture. The school insights are fascinating. This would be an excellent film to explore with a Year 8 or 9 class as issues of gender, politics, identity and culture are so clearly represented.



NSW 7-10 syllabus and text connections

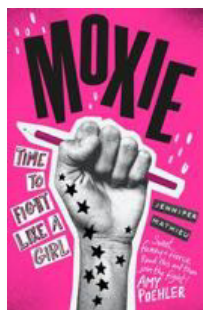
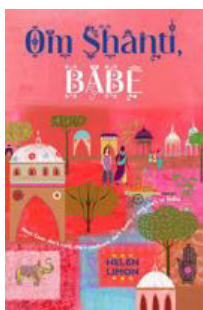
Text Requirements:

Film from around the world about social, cultural and gender perspectives and youth cultures

Concepts:

Context and Perspective, Representation, Point of view

Connecting Texts:



WALL•E | Andrew Stanton

(2008) | PG

Film

American

Many humans consume far more than they need, while others have little to live on. WALL•E is an animated film which uses humour to question that unconstrained consumption. It makes a powerful statement about the need to live sustainably so the needs of future generations will not be compromised.



NSW 7-10 syllabus and text connections

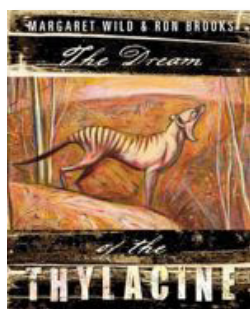
Text Requirements:

Film from around the world about social and cultural perspectives

Concepts:

Representation, Style, Theme

Connecting Texts:



Who's Afraid of the Big Bad Book? | Lauren Child

(2002)

Picture book

British

When Herb scribbled moustaches on characters in his fairy tales and cut them up, he didn't know he was about to fall into the books and face some outraged characters, such as an angry Goldilocks and an annoyed Cinderella. This witty tale could find a place in classrooms from 7-12. Snow, a retelling of Snow White in a future, climate changed world, is an interesting contrast in intertextuality.



NSW 7-10 syllabus and text connections

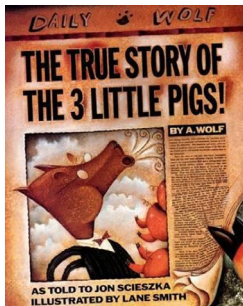
Text Requirements:

Multimodal text from around the world

Concepts:

Intertextuality, Representation, Genre

Connecting Texts:



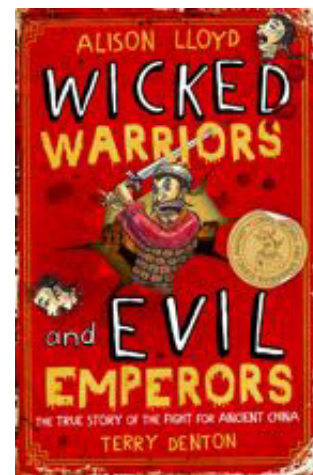
Wicked Warriors and Evil Emperors: The True Story of the Fight for Ancient China | Alison Lloyd & Terry Denton

(2010)

Non-fiction illustrated book

Australia

What a fantastic introduction to ancient Chinese history. Alison Lloyd and Terry Denton are a great team and this account of the real (and bloody) first emperor of China (258-210 BC) will have no trouble engaging students in Year 7. With its hilarious illustrations, tables, maps, quizzes and helpful footnotes and pronunciation guide this book begs to be read and viewed. It would make a fascinating contrast to Mao's Last Dancer (Young Readers' Edition), a Chinese story told over 2,000 years later but which also features the legacy of a ruler proud to be compared in brutality with Qinshi Huangdi- the first emperor. Great background for a study of Oodgeroo Noonuccal's China poems set for the HSC.



NSW 7-10 syllabus and text connections

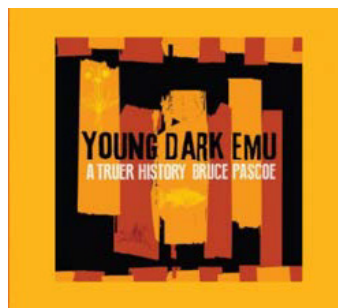
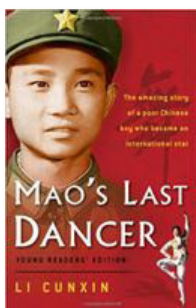
Text Requirements:

Multimodal text, Australian authors

Concepts:

Context and Perspective, Representation, Genre

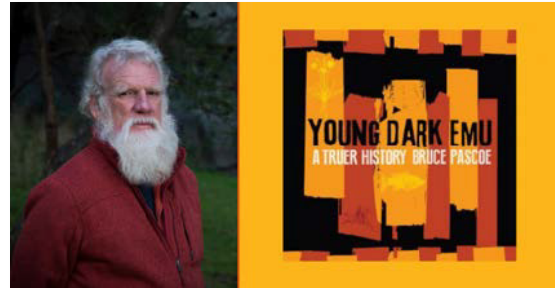
Connecting Texts:



Young Dark Emu A Truer History | Bruce Pascoe

(2019)

Non-fiction picture book
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander
Australian



Young Dark Emu provides Pascoe's research, in the award-winning Dark Emu, about Indigenous food production, land management and housing construction in Australia, to younger school students. It begins by noting that Aboriginal Australians used the darkness between the stars to tell a story, unlike European astronomers. Bruce Pascoe concludes his book with an explanation of the role of Baiame, the creator Spirit Emu, and how the Dark Emu was a shape in those dark areas between the stars on the Milky Way. This beautifully produced picture book combines material from Dark Emu with images, photographs and original source material. Young Dark Emu enriches an understanding of the work of many Indigenous authors, poets, dramatists, artists and filmmakers.

NSW 7-10 syllabus and text connections

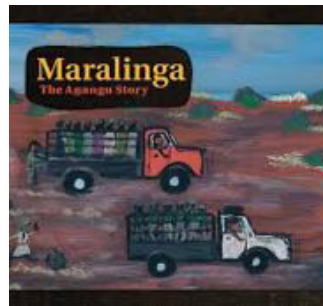
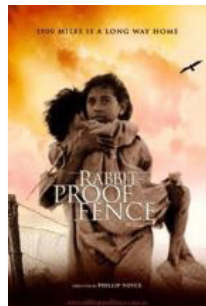
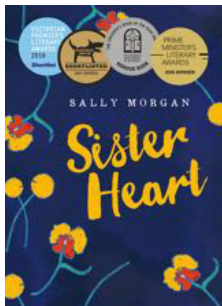
Text Requirements:

Multimodal text, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and Australian author

Concepts:

Authority, Context and Perspective, Representation

Connecting Texts:



Stage 4: Years 7 & 8 – Fiction Texts



Aurora Rising | Amie Kaufman & Jay Kristoff

Aurora Burning | Amie Kaufman & Jay Kristoff

(2019 & 2022)

Australian

The Aurora Cycle feature teenagers saving the universe with a wonderful diversity of characters and many heart stopping moments. Amie Kaufman and Jay Kristoff are masters at cliff-hangers and getting adolescents (and readers everywhere) to turn the page.



Teaching notes available at A & U site.

NSW 7-10 syllabus and text connections

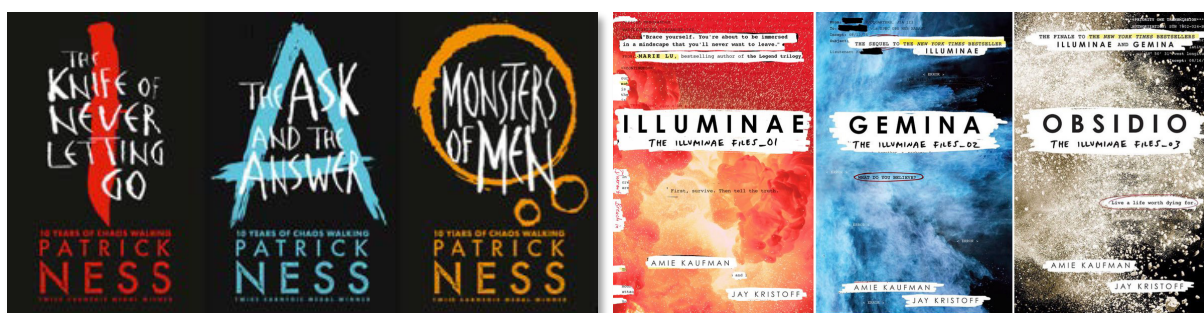
Text Requirements:

Novel, Australian authors, popular and youth cultures

Concepts:

Narrative, Representation, Genre

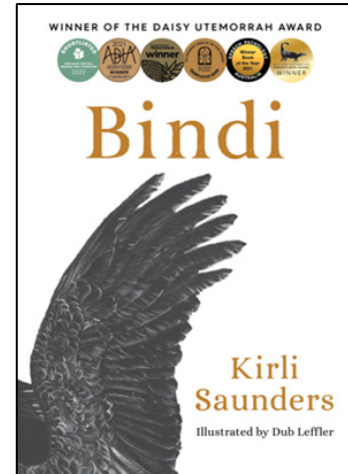
Connecting Texts:



Bindi | Kirli Saunders

illustrated by Dub Leffler
(2020)
Australian

Eleven-year-old Bindi and her friends live on Gundungurra Country in SE NSW. She loves hockey, her horse Nell and her friends. Bindi and her mates experience fear and despair when a bush fire threatens but the novel also shows the beauty and wonder of living on Country. This verse novel skilfully incorporates Indigenous Dreaming, culture and language and was the winner of the 2019 WA Premier's Book Award Daisy Utemorrah Award.



NSW 7-10 syllabus and text connections

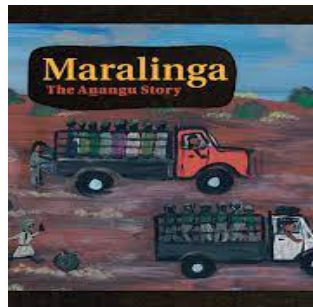
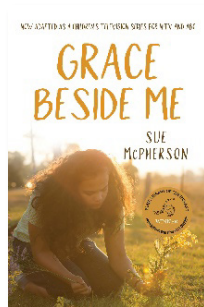
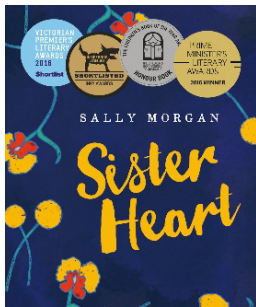
Text Requirements:

Novel, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander authors, Australian Author

Concepts:

Narrative, Representation, Theme

Connecting Texts:



Blueback | Tim Winton

(1997)

Australian

Abel Jackson is a young Australian, a keen swimmer and a passionate environmentalist. When swimming Abel encounters a huge blue groper that he names Blueback. The fish is a legend in the district and attracts the attention of a vicious fisherman who puts Blueback and the fishing in the bay at risk. Abel's mother wages a campaign to protect the bay from pollution and encroaching developers. She is joined by Abel, who leaves a promising international career as a marine biologist to help her. This story is told with Winton's characteristic clarity and colour. Year 7 students can explore environmental themes and sustainability and the idea that individuals can make a difference.



NSW 7-10 syllabus and text connections

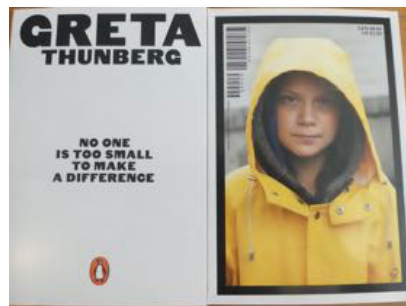
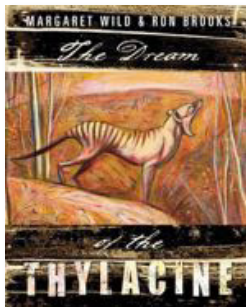
Text Requirements:

Novel, extended prose, Australian author, cultural, social and gender perspectives

Concepts:

Narrative, Genre, Connotation, Imagery and Symbol

Connecting Texts:



Chaos Walking Trilogy | Patrick Ness

The Knife of Never Letting Go
The Ask and the Answer
Monsters of Men
(2008)
British and American



At the end of *The Knife of Never Letting Go*, the first book in the series, Mayor Prentiss has forced the town of Haven to surrender to him and has captured Todd and a badly wounded Viola. *The Ask and the Answer* takes us further into a world full of moral ambiguity, conflict and confusion, a world that students in Years 8 and 9 will really want to explore. Patrick Ness intensifies the complexity and moral ambiguity of the society as the reader speeds through the three novels in the series. Readers will be challenged by the ethical dilemmas presented in these demanding novels and the exploration of control, violence and prejudice as well as loyalty and love. The relationship between Todd and Viola bestrides these violent and demanding books and shows us the power of love and what the desire for peace can achieve among the carnage of war and the lies and deceit of its protagonists. It's certainly a series for our times and will challenge, confront, and enthrall students across the stages.

NSW 7-10 syllabus and text connections

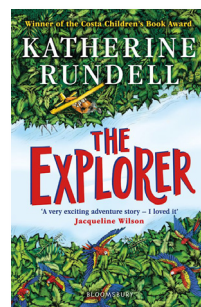
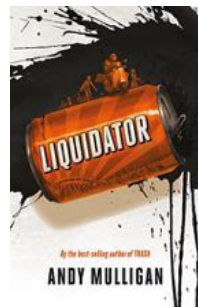
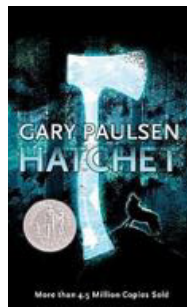
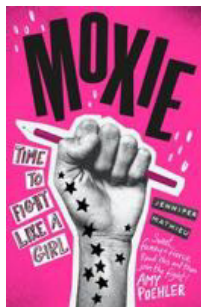
Text Requirements:

Novel, extended prose, cultural, social and gender perspectives

Concepts:

Narrative, Characterisation, Point of View

Connecting Texts:

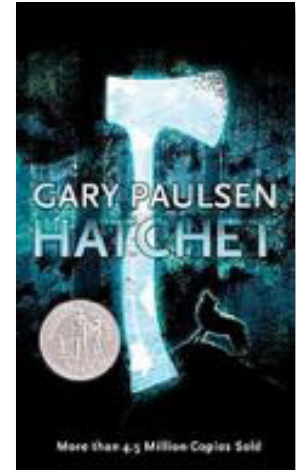


Hatchet | Gary Paulsen

(1987)

American

Brian Robeson is a thirteen-year-old city boy who is left alone in the Canadian wilderness after his pilot dies and the plane crashes. He has to find food and shelter and avoid the perils of the woods, including the ravenous mosquitos. He needs all his courage and imagination to survive. Hatchet is a text still found in many schoolbook rooms and part of a longer series including *The River*, *Brian's Winter*, *Brian's Return* and *Brian's Hunt*. Paulsen's memoir, *Gone to the Woods*, (2021) would make an interesting parallel text.



NSW 7-10 syllabus and text connections

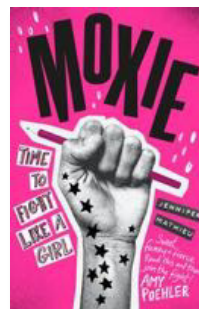
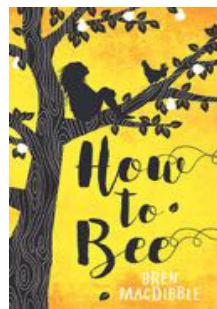
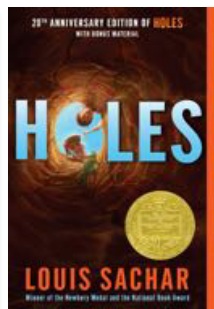
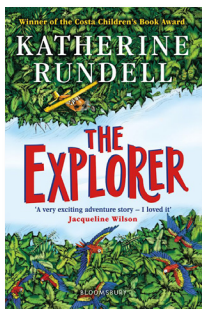
Text Requirements:

Novel, extended prose, youth cultures

Concepts:

Narrative, Characterisation, Theme

Connecting Texts:



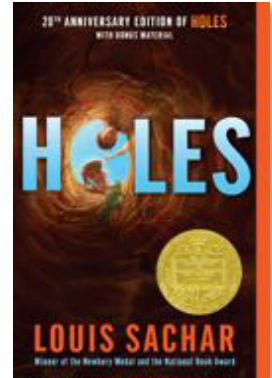
Holes | Louis Sachar

(1999)

American

Stanley Yelnats finds himself at Camp Green Lake in Texas, in a juvenile detention facility set in a wasteland where there is no lake and boys are forced to dig countless holes to improve their character. As the innocent victim of mistaken identity Stanley finds it a tough experience but there is fun along the way. The warped warden is searching for something hidden in the desert but a wonderful ending thwarts her plans.

Compassion, friendship and humour are the hallmarks of this 1999 Newbery Medal Winner.



NSW 7-10 syllabus and text connections

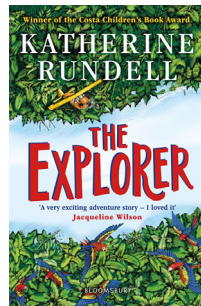
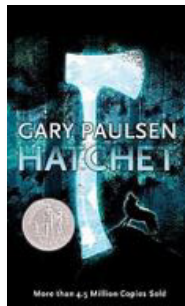
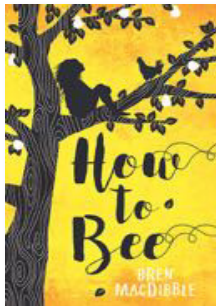
Text Requirements:

Novel, extended prose, youth cultures

Concepts:

Characterisation, Theme

Connecting Texts:

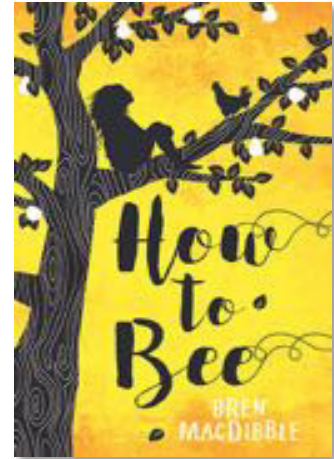


How to Bee | Bren MacDibble

(2017)

New Zealander

Bren MacDibble takes the reader to a future Australia where famine has killed the bees and orchards must be manually pollinated. The story is set in the Goulburn Valley and its protagonist is Peony, a feisty nearly ten-year-old who yearns to be “a bee”. The “bees” are the fleetest and deftest workers, able to go out on slim branches and pollinate the flowers by hand. Peony lives with her grandfather and sister, and while life is hard, she has enough to eat, a place to sleep and love. But Rosie, her mother, returns with her new and violent boyfriend and drags Peony to the city to be a servant in Mrs Pasquale’s house. Peony is tough and clever; she survives despite the violence in her mother’s life. This story should find a ready audience in Year 7. Students will be cheering for Peony as she fights to get back to her real home. Teaching notes are available at A&U site.



NSW 7-10 syllabus and text connections

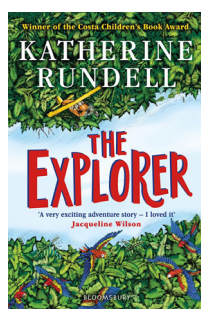
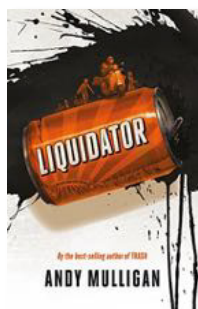
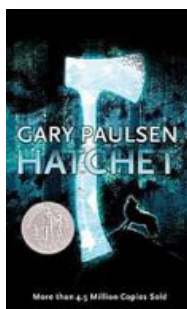
Text Requirements:

novel, extended prose, cultural, social and gender perspectives

Concepts:

Narrative, Characterisation, Representation

Connecting Texts:

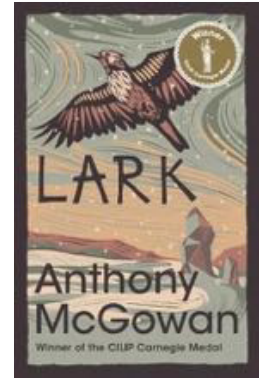


Lark | Anthony McGowan

(2020)
British



Two brothers and a dog start out late for a walk on the moors. Their dad suggested they go as things are tense at home with their mum about to reappear in the lives. Nick is younger but looks after Kenny, who is neurodiverse. When they get caught in a snowstorm the brothers need each other more than ever to avoid disaster.



This 120-page novella details poverty and tough times yet McGowan conveys the inner life of the boys and the love between them. Heartbreaking and breathtaking all in one, Lark is a book that will capture hearts. Winner of the Carnegie Medal for 2020.

NSW 7-10 syllabus and text connections

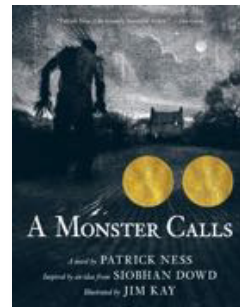
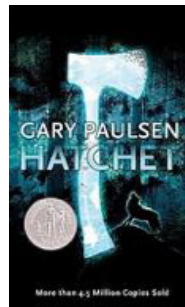
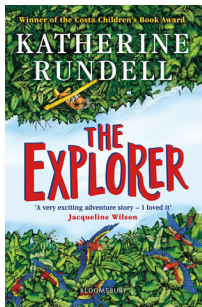
Text Requirements:

Novel, extended prose from around the world

Concepts:

Narrative, Characterisation, Theme

Connecting Texts:



Lenny's Book of Everything | Karen Foxlee

(2018)

Australian

Davey won't stop growing and at seven is as tall as a man. Lenny is his sister and together with her mother they just manage to keep food and a roof over their heads. The highlight of the children's lives is the arrival of a magazine, the latest issue of the Burrell's Build-It-at-Home Encyclopedia. Through this alphabetical encyclopedia, they explore the world. Lenny does everything she can to protect Davey but as he grows his health becomes perilous. This moving text celebrates difference with very endearing characters and a sense that life can be far too unfair. Teaching notes available at A & U site.



NSW 7-10 syllabus and text connections

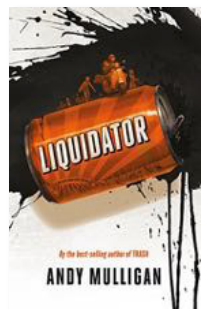
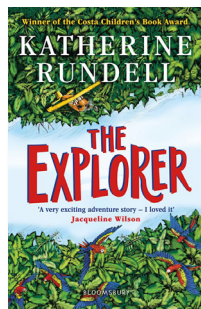
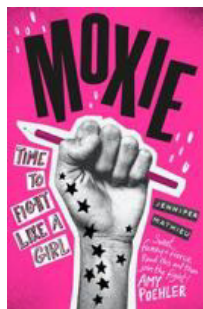
Text Requirements:

Novel, extended prose, Australian author, cultural, social and gender perspectives

Concepts:

Narrative, Characterisation, Theme

Connecting Texts:



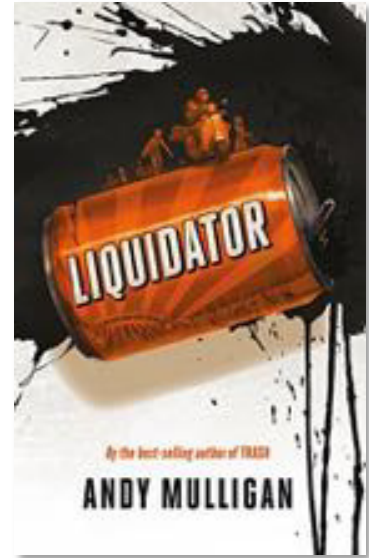
Liquidator | Andy Mulligan

(2015)
British



Andy Mulligan, the author of *Trash*, has combined ethics, corporate corruption, work experience and clever kids to produce another thrilling story.

The biggest selling soft drink in the world is Liquidator. Everyone drinks it. Vicky, a British school student, gets the worst choice for work experience as a sandwich maker at a PR firm that handles the Liquidator account. While there she accidentally stumbles on a terrible secret. The soft drink is dangerous, it is highly addictive, is being tested on unknowing African children and one boy is close to death. Vicki has to call for help from her friends and class- mates. Leela, the twins, Kat Kat and Spud have to use all their skills to expose the company while evading the enforcers that are sent after them. The action is fast, mad and often funny, the threat is clear and the climax at Africa's Weeping, the globally televised charity concert is improbable but highly satisfying. Mulligan employs multiple narrators, and the reader can enjoy the different perspectives these voices bring in this race against time and greed. *Liquidator* asks, what you would do if you found out someone was doing something bad, and Vicky and friends have a resounding answer.



Liquidator is a marvellous introduction to ethical understanding and a world in which corporate exploitation can be opposed.

NSW 7-10 syllabus and text connections

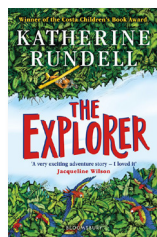
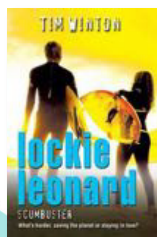
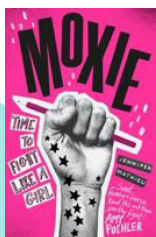
Text Requirements:

Novel, extended prose, from around the world cultural, social and gender perspectives, including from popular and youth cultures

Concepts:

Context and Perspective, Narrative, Theme

Connecting Texts:

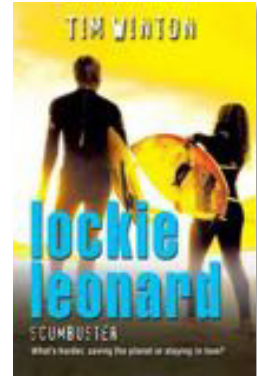


Lockie Leonard Scumbuster | Tim Winton

(1995)

Australian

In *Lockie Leonard, Human Torpedo* we were introduced to Lockie and his beginning relationship with Vicki Streeton. *Scumbuster* takes us further into the surf with the additional issue of industrial pollution and the effect on the environment. The third book in the series Lockie Leonard, Legend looks closely at adult responsibilities and teenagers' perceptions of them. Lockie and Vicki grow up in these books and thanks to the humour, an eye to the ridiculous and Winton's wonderful prose, the books have proved to be very popular in the classroom.



NSW 7-10 syllabus and text connections

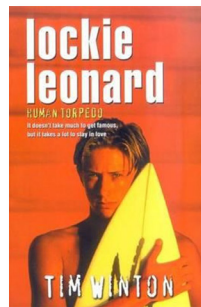
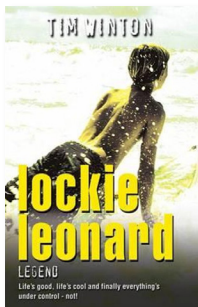
Text Requirements:

Novel, extended prose, Australian author, cultural, social and gender perspectives, including from popular and youth cultures

Concepts:

Narrative, Characterisation, Theme

Connecting Texts:

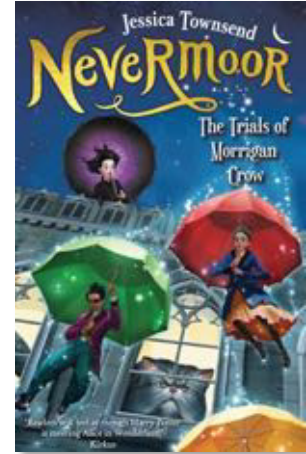


Nevermoor The Trials of Morrigan Crow | Jessica Townsend

(2017)

Australian

This novel immediately draws readers into a different world and invites us to go exploring with young Morrigan Crow. She's nearly eleven years old and has a miserable time of it at home. She appears to be cursed and the cause of any misfortune to people and places nearby. Morrigan is doomed to die on the stroke of her eleventh birthday on Eventide so she could be excused for being depressed. But she is dogged and inquisitive and the possessor of a keen sense of humour so readers quickly warm to her. Fortunately for both Morrigan and her readers, she is rescued from her fate by an eccentric stranger, called Jupiter North of the Wunderous Society, just as a set of horrible shadow hounds pursue her. Jupiter takes her to Nevermoor, a city in which she can join the Wunderous Society but only after going through a series of demanding trials which uncover extraordinary talent.



Nevermoor is a delight to read with a deceitful villain, giant Magnificats (they are just what you might expect from that splendid name) and a magical transport system. The trials are varied and exciting and it will probably surprise few readers to discover that Morrigan has a talent after all – but just what it is will keep everyone guessing. Wundersmith (2018) is the second in the series and Hollowpox, (2020) the third book in the series, is eerily prescient, as Morrigan is fighting a virulent virus that attacks the Wunnimals and is causing chaos and confusion, a parallel to COVID 19. Moral and ethical dilemmas are explored as well as the nature of power, prejudice and corruption in a powerful, magical thriller.

NSW 7-10 syllabus and text connections

Text Requirements:

Novel, extended prose, Australian author

Concepts:

Narrative, Characterisation, Genre

Connecting Texts:

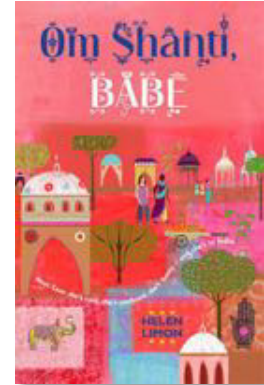


Om Shanti Babe | Helen Limon

(2012)

British

Cass drops out of school and travels to Kerala, India from England with her mum to help her buy fair trade goods for her store. The colour and bustle of Kerala attract Cass and a local environmental issue really gains her support. She makes friends and there is humour and laughter and a sense of belonging as Cass grows up and learns about another culture.



NSW 7-10 syllabus and text connections

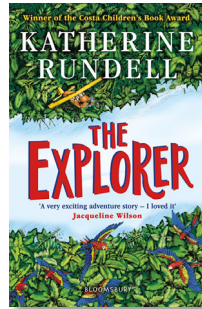
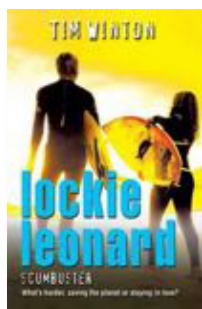
Text Requirements:

Novel, extended prose, from around the world, cultural, social and gender perspectives

Concepts:

Context and Perspective, Narrative, Theme, Narrative, Representation

Connecting Texts:

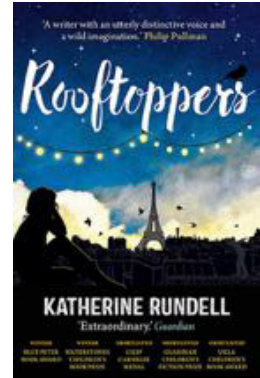


Rooftoppers | Katherine Rundell

(2013)

British

One year old Sophie was found floating in the English Channel in a cello case, after the ship she and her mother were on, was wrecked. Although she remembers her mother waving, there is no sign that her mother was rescued. Sophie is cared for up by the man who lifted her into the rescue boat, a scholar by the name of Charles Maxim. Sophie is brought up with love and books, an unconventional upbringing according to the National Childcare Agency, who do all they can to remove Sophie from his care. Sophie grows up tall and generous and bookish, just like her guardian. They are both wonderfully appealing characters who run away to Paris when the authorities come to separate them. It is in Paris that Sophie hopes to find her mother, based on a clue in the cello case.



If you thought the first part of the book was pacey wait until Sophie finds herself on the rooftops of Paris with Matteo. He is a boy who escaped from his harsh orphanage and now lives above Paris. Matteo is skilled at navigating the rooftops, while never touching the ground. There is danger here and violence; it takes all Sophie's courage to follow him across the rooftops, but she does it and thereby meets others who come to like her and help her find her mother.

NSW 7-10 syllabus and text connections

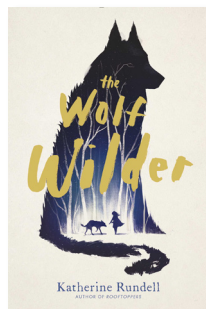
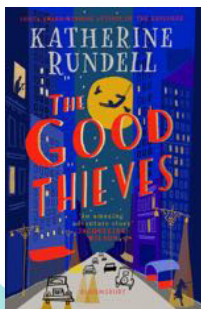
Text Requirements:

Novel, extended prose from around the world

Concepts:

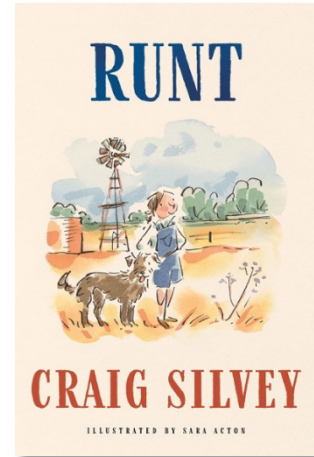
Narrative, Characterisation

Connecting Texts:



Runt | Craig Silvey

illustrated by Sara Acton
(2022)
Australian



This joyous and hilarious tale of a young girl and her dog will warm many hearts. Annie Shearer is a clever and different eleven-year-old who lives on a drought affected Australian country town called Upson Downs and wants to fix things and make the world a better place. She rescues Runt who is an outsider too, and is a genius at herding sheep, but he only obeys Annie and only performs when no one else is looking. Clearly Annie's plan to raise money for the farm by entering Runt in a famous Dog Show competition has some obstacles. This novel also has a greedy villain, wondrous word play, multiple adventures and a delightful family. In Year 7 Runt could be a close study or part of a wide reading unit on dogs; it has wide appeal for all ages and classrooms. Winner Book of the Year: Younger Readers CBCA Awards 2023.

NSW 7-10 syllabus and text connections

Text Requirements:

Novel, Australian Author

Concepts:

Characterisation, Narrative, Theme

Connecting Texts:

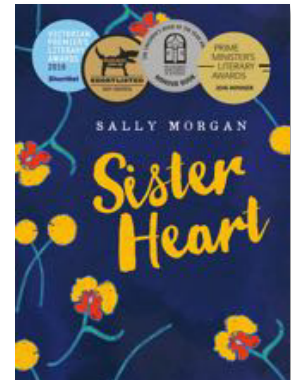


Sister Heart | Sally Morgan

(2015)

Verse novel

Australian



Sister Heart is a moving account of a child taken from her family and her home. Annie is the name assigned to this young Aboriginal girl; her real name remains a secret. Sally Morgan tells her tale in a simple verse novel, accessible and easily read in an hour. It begins in the cold, stone room where the police have flung Annie. It moves to the ship that takes her away to a training institution where she will be kept with other stolen children, all destined to be domestic servants or stock hands. Annie's sorrow and distress are clearly communicated through her first-person narrative. She has lost her voice, but this diary of reflections gives it back in full as she laments the separation from her people and her land. Year 7 will identify with young Annie and the plight of the Stolen Generation and this short verse novel is a powerful text to use in the classroom. Consider Sister Heart in a unit which explores a range of texts representing the Stolen Children.

NSW 7-10 syllabus and text connections

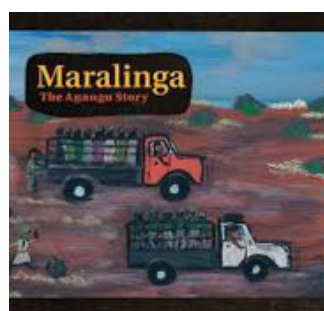
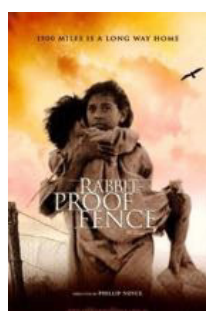
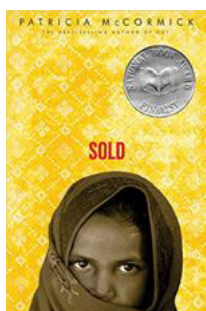
Text Requirements:

Extended prose, Australian and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander author

Concepts:

Context and Perspective, Narrative, Genre

Connecting Texts:



Sold | Patricia McCormick

(2006)

Verse novel

American



In *Sold*, thirteen-year-old Lakshmi lives with her family in the mountains of Nepal. When the family falls deeper into poverty, Lakshmi is sold to work in a brothel as a prostitute. Lakshmi's first-person account can be distressing but does end with some hope when attempts are made to rescue girls from the brothel. This powerful text will make a strong impression and it would be better programmed towards the end of Year 8. Teaching notes available at A & U site.

NSW 7-10 syllabus and text connections

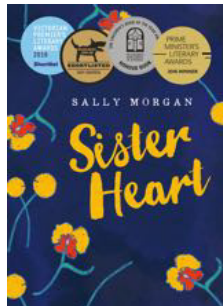
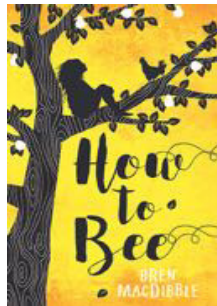
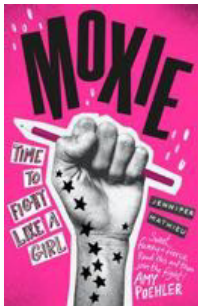
Text Requirements:

Verse novel, from around the world

Concepts:

Context and Perspective, Narrative, Genre

Connecting Texts:

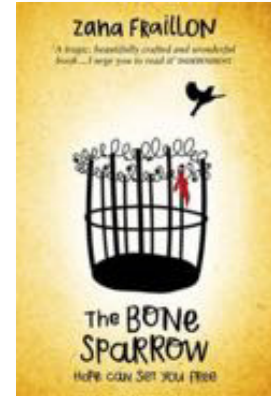


The Bone Sparrow | Zana Fraillon

(2016)

Australian

This lyrical novel takes the reader into the life of a Rohingya refugee. Ten-year old Subhi was born in Australia but has only known the world of a Detention Centre. When Jimmie, a young girl, who lives on the Outside, appears one night inside the wire, a friendship develops but the Centre is a dangerous place and Subhi's imagination soars in his storytelling and his 'Night Sea'.



The Bone Sparrow is a compelling story of despair, empathy and hope. The Bone Sparrow won the ABIA Book of the Year for Older Readers, The Readings Young Adult Book Prize and the Amnesty CILIP Honour.

NSW 7-10 syllabus and text connections

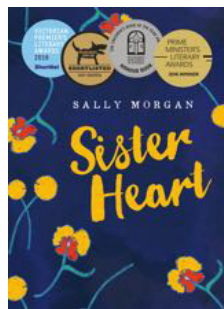
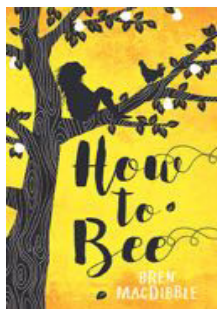
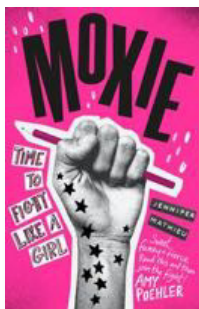
Text Requirements:

Novel, extended prose, Australian author, cultural, social and gender perspectives, including popular and youth cultures

Concepts:

Characterisation, Theme, Narrative

Connecting Texts:



The Dog Runner | Bren MacDibble

(2019)

New Zealander

The world has come crashing to a halt as a red fungus has destroyed grasses and grains across the globe, causing an environmental disaster. Rations are in place, power is gone, people are scared and barricading themselves in their homes and violence is breaking out. Ten-year-old Ella's mum, a solar scientist, is on the other side of the city trying to get the power going again.



Ella's dad has gone looking for her and not returned. Emery, Ella's fourteen-year-old brother, has gone to find their dad and Ella is left waiting for them with their three big dogs, Maroochy, Wolf and Bear. Emery's different mum and grandfather are First Nation people who live 'up country', and they have been saving the old grasses and Emery thinks life would be better there. So Ella, Emery and their wonderful dogs must find Emery's mum and both Ella and Emery's tenacity and courage are tested. You could use this novel with students in Year 7 or 8 as part of an investigation into how climate change can be represented in literature. Teaching notes are available at A&U site.

NSW 7-10 syllabus and text connections

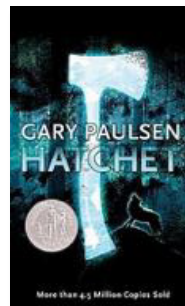
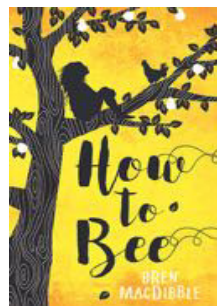
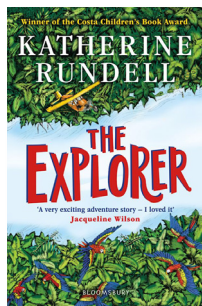
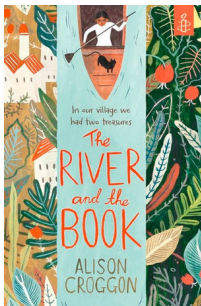
Text Requirements:

Novel, extended prose, from around the world, cultural, social and gender perspectives

Concepts:

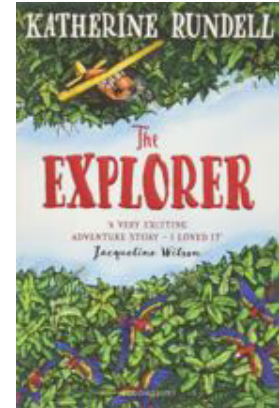
Context and Perspective, Theme, Genre

Connecting Texts:



The Explorer | Katherine Rundell

(2017)
British



Fred is flying to Manaus over the Amazon jungle in Brazil when his pilot has a heart attack and the plane crashes. Shades of Hatchet! But the differences soon start to emerge. Survival is still the number one problem, but in this story the main character has company on the plane. There's Con, a pale and angry girl, and Lila and her five-year-old brother, Max. Lila's parents are scientists and know about plants and so does Lila. Con has a photographic memory and Fred has always been fascinated by explorers and has a high degree of curiosity. All these talents prove invaluable. The Explorer is a fascinating and thrilling read and Year 7 students will really enjoy the adventures of Fred and company as they make their way from the plane wreck through the jungle and down the river to a lost city and finally home. Highly recommended for a great deal of excitement in the classroom.

NSW 7-10 syllabus and text connections

Text Requirements:

Novel, extended prose, from around the world, cultural, social and gender perspectives

Concepts:

Narrative, Genre, Theme

Connecting Texts:

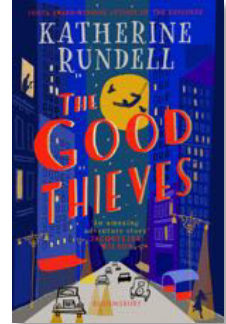


The Good Thieves | Katherine Rundell

(2019)

British

Young Vita Marlowe is out to right a wrong. Her grandfather's home has been stolen and Vita is planning to get it back from the criminal con man, Victor Sorrotore who stole it. Along the way she gains the help of a pickpocket, a circus highflyer and a boy with a magic ability with animals. Vita pushes through the pain of her polio affected body to bring joy to her grandfather. The courage and loyalty of the group as they face danger is very moving.



NSW 7-10 syllabus and text connections

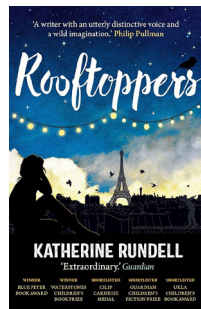
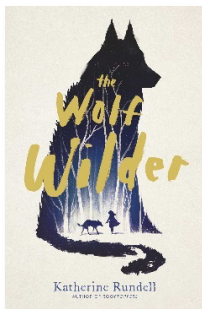
Text Requirements:

Novel, extended prose, cultural, social and gender perspectives, youth cultures

Concepts:

Narrative, Characterisation, Theme

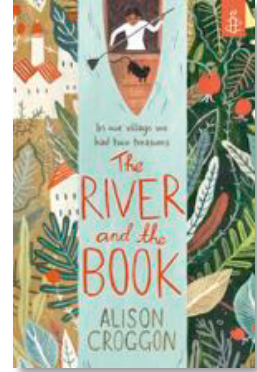
Connecting Texts:



The River and the Book | Alison Croggon

(2015)

Australian



Simbala, a young woman, is the narrator. She is one of the Keepers of the Book, a treasure of the village in which she lives. The other treasure is the river on which the village sits. The river provides life and food to the village people. The mystical Book, protected by generations of keepers, provides answers to people's questions, although 'there was no guarantee that anyone would understand it'. But war and cotton upstream are draining and poisoning the river and gradually the village sees their way of life changing irrevocably. When Jane Watson, a white woman comes to the village she says she is working to stop the exploitation of the river people and Sim befriends her, against her grandmother's advice. When she leaves, she steals the Book, a theft that was a 'wound that went too deep for pain'. Sim leaves the village to see if she can find Jane and reclaim the book. Her journey is difficult, and she ends up living in the city far from her village but with friends who love her and respect her. With the help of the poet, Ling Ti, she does find Jane and confronts her. A two-faced woman is revealed; a fighter for justice for the river people but also a cultural vandal who robbed the village of what it valued most. The power of this simple tale is considerable; the language is deft and lyrical, and the message is profound.

NSW 7-10 syllabus and text connections

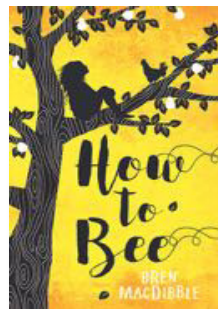
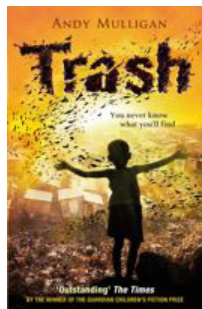
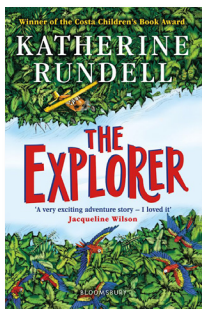
Text Requirements:

Novel, extended prose, Australian author

Concepts:

Context and Perspective, Connotation, Imagery and Symbol, Narrative

Connecting Texts:



The Ship Kings series | Andrew McGahan

Book 1: The Coming of the Whirlpool (2011)

Book 2: The Voyage of the Unquiet Ice (2012)

Book 3: The War of the Four Isles (2014)

Book 4: The Ocean of the Dead (2016)

Australian



We meet the inhabitants of New Island in *The Coming of the Whirlpool*. They lost the long war with the Ship Kings and are now controlled by these mysterious and powerful figures. Dow Amber is the descendant of the most famous sailor in New Island's history and yet he has never been to sea and is initially unaware of his connection to such a famous man. But Dow feels the pull of the ocean and his sailing heroics in the whirlpool earn him a berth on the Ship Kings' *Chloe* as she sails away from New Island into the Great Ocean. *The Ocean of the Dead* concludes a wonderful series. We find Dow Amber and Nella sailing south in an endeavour to find a new land far away from the wars and ravages of the five islands. Year 8 students will find these complex books, with superb world building, nuanced characters and daunting prospects, enthralling. It's the voyage of a lifetime and the echoes of 'The Rime of the Ancient Mariner', found in the first book of the series, resonate in this last one as well.

NSW 7-10 syllabus and text connections

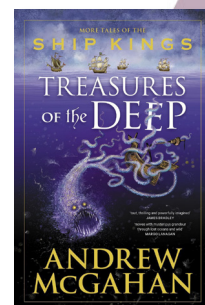
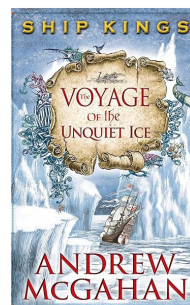
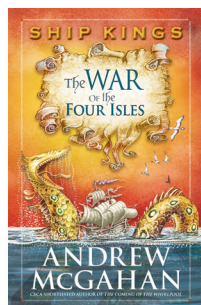
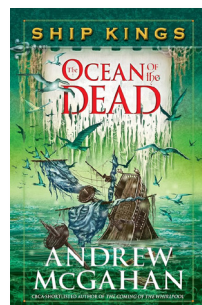
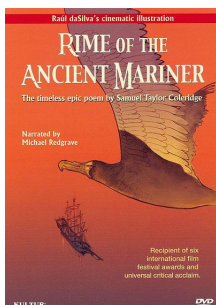
Text Requirements:

Novels, extended prose, Australian author, cultural, social and gender perspectives

Concepts:

Genre, Narrative, Characterisation

Connecting Texts:



Through My Eyes Natural Disaster Zones series

Lyla | Fleur Beale (2018)

Angel | Zoe Daniels (2018)

Shaozhen | Wai Chim (2017)

Hotaka | John Heffernan (2017)

Global



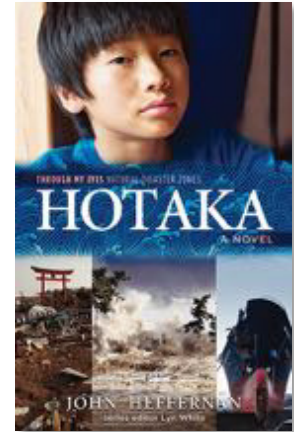
In Lyla the reader goes to Christchurch, New Zealand and shares the life and work of the protagonist after the earthquake.

In Shaozhen we share a lengthy drought in a remote region in China.

In Hotaka we experience the aftermath of the earthquake and tsunami on the coast of Japan in 2011.

Angel takes us to the Philippines and surviving the super Typhoon Haiyan.

Consider one text as a class set and provide choice for students to explore the resilience and courage of teenagers in challenging circumstances. The resources and links at the back of each book are very valuable in providing contextual details. There is a website for the series at <http://throughmyeyesbooks.com.au/index.html>



NSW 7-10 syllabus and text connections

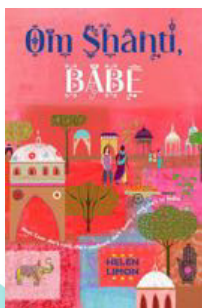
Text Requirements:

Novels, extended prose, social, cultural and gender perspectives

Concepts:

Context and Perspective, Genre, Narrative

Connecting Texts:



Through My Eyes Australian Disaster Zones

Tyenna | Julie Hunt & Terry Whitebeach (2022)

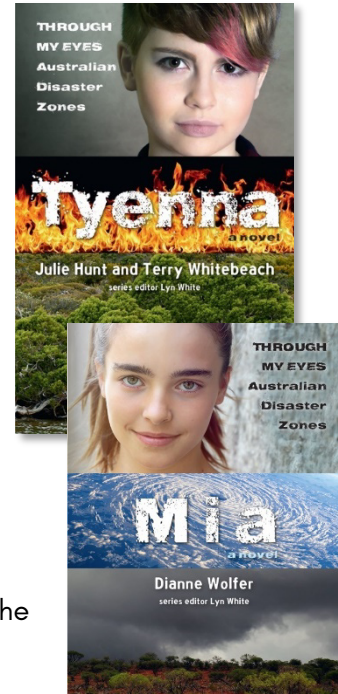
Mia | Dianne Wolfer (2018)

Novel

Australian

Tye is spending her summer holidays with her grandparents in the beautiful Tasmanian Central Highlands when a terrifying bushfire sweeps through the area. She knows a runaway boy is hiding out nearby and she is torn between her responsibility to her grandparents and to him. Tyenna is an exciting novel that explores the deadly consequences of climate change and shows the powerful response of a small community who want to protect their environment and their lives.

Mia is thirteen years old and lives with her mother in the Pilbara in the north of WA. She helps her mother with her work as a vet and her horses help her with the anxiety she experiences. In March 2019 Cyclone Veronica arrives and Mia is home alone as her mum is trapped out of the area on a vital mission to save a horse. Mia does all she can to protect her home and her horses. This engaging and powerful novel captures the ferocity of the cyclone and the courage and initiative of Mia's response. Mia Teachers Notes at Allen & Unwin include a list of excellent hyperlinks to information about sea turtles, cyclones and the Pilbara.



NSW 7-10 syllabus and text connections

Text Requirements:

Australian author, youth cultures

Concepts:

Context, Narrative, Perspective, Genre

Connecting Texts:



Trash | Andy Mulligan

(2010)
British



Three young friends who live in a slum, work the dumpsite sifting rubbish. One day they find a secret that starts a deadly chase. Raphael, Gardo and Rat will find their way into readers' hearts with their bravery and courage, their humour and their resilience. Original and engaging, this multi-narrated story explores issues of poverty, injustice, corruption and friendship in the amazing setting of one of the poorest places in the world. The ending will open students' eyes to the way much of the world lives.

Note: Check your feeder schools' text selections as this is a popular text which may be used in Year 6.

NSW 7-10 syllabus and text connections

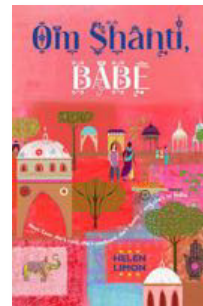
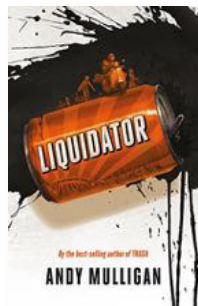
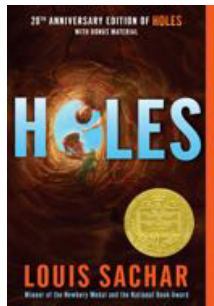
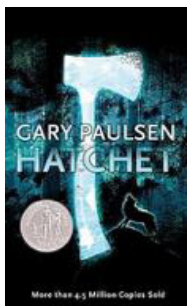
Text Requirements:

Novel, extended prose, from around the world

Concepts:

Narrative, Characterisation, Theme

Connecting Texts:



We are Wolves | Katrina Nannestad

(2020)

Australian

This story is about fleeing the consequences of a war. Towards the end of the Second World War, the Wolf family must leave East Prussia as the Russian army advances. Liesl, her baby sister, Mia, and her brother, Otto are separated from their mother and must fend for themselves to survive. There is terror and humour, kindness and cruelty to be found as they struggle to find food and a safe place. Courage and resilience are also present in this engaging and moving story.



NSW 7-10 syllabus and text connections

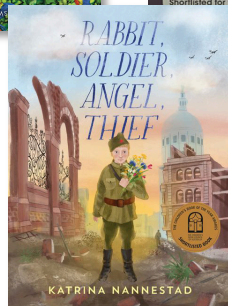
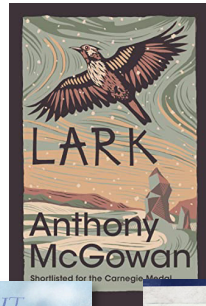
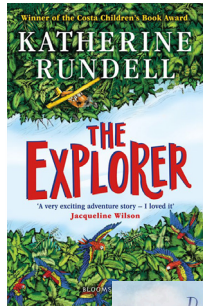
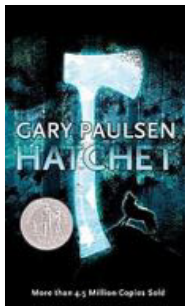
Text Requirements:

Novel, extended prose, Australian author, cultural, social and gender perspectives

Concepts:

Context and Perspective, Narrative, Characterisation

Connecting Texts:



When Friendship Followed Me Home | Paul Griffin

(2016)

American



This novel will wiggle its way into students' hearts, just as Flip the dog does with twelve-year-old Ben and Halley, the protagonists of this appealing story. Ben Coffin has found it difficult to fit in. As a foster kid he tries not to attract attention but his life changes when he meets Halley, a cancer sufferer, and he takes a stray dog home. There is laughter at Flip's antics and their collaborative fantasy tale. There is loss when his foster mum dies and he relocates to her sister and difficult partner, Leo. There are gains as Ben makes new friends with Halley's family, and Flip trains as a therapy dog to help kids read.

Griffin escapes sentimentality and addresses hard topics with toughness and honesty and when Flip flips over, so people can scratch his tummy, well – the reader just surrenders then and there. Mrs Lorentz, Halley's mother, is the best librarian in YA literature and takes Ben to her heart, just as the reader does. While there are more hard losses and bruises to come there is mirth and happiness and a bit of magic as well. Year 7 students will have a wonderful time with this novel and dog visits to school might become obligatory.

NSW 7-10 syllabus and text connections

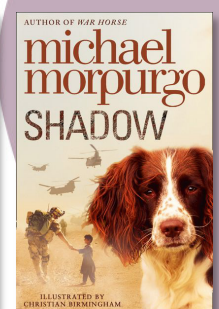
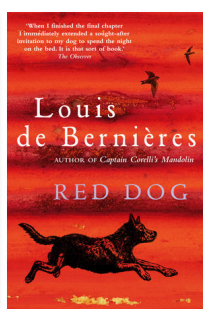
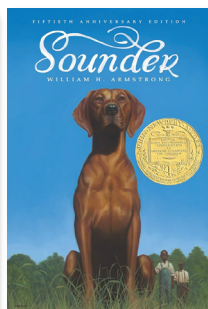
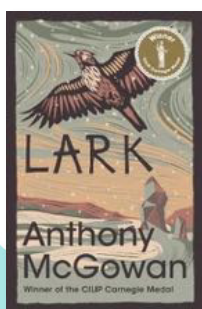
Text Requirements:

Novel, extended prose from around the world

Concepts:

Narrative, Context and Perspective, Theme

Connecting Texts:



Stage 4: Years 7 & 8 – Drama Texts



Cyberbible and Grounded | Alana Valentine

(2013)

Australian



Cyberbible is edgy, raw and confronting. It deals with cyberbullying, peer pressure and friendship and because it is verbatim theatre the voices and situations are authentic. The play has a school-based origin and was originally performed by PLC Sydney students. Alana Valentine was asked to look at the raw material of interviews and questionnaires with students and parents and fashioned a play that would add to the social conversation about cyberbullying. This play is well suited to students towards the end of Year 8 or for students in Year 9. It begins with a monologue that charts the first of a series of cyber taunts. As the play develops, we experience the bullying of one of the girls and her attempts to combat these insidious attacks. In *Grounded* the reader meets Farrah, a young Novocastrian with a passion for the port. The play takes place during the grounding of the tanker Pasha Bulka on Nobby's Beach in June 2007 and explores Farrah's isolation obsession and identity.

NSW 7-10 syllabus and text connections

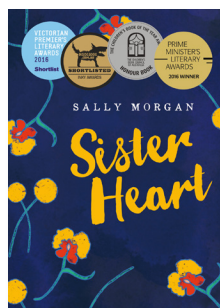
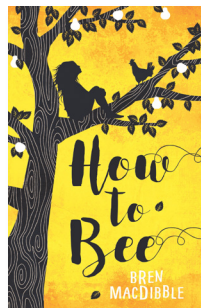
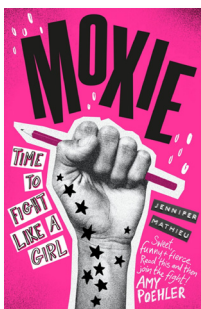
Text Requirements:

Drama text, Australian author, cultural social and gender perspectives

Concepts:

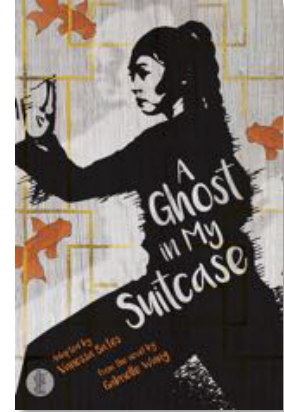
Context and Perspective, Representation, Style

Connecting Texts:



A Ghost in my Suitcase | Vanessa Bates

adapted from the Novel by Gabrielle Wang
(2019)
Australian



This short play about twelve-year-old Celeste and her Asian family will delight many students in Years 6 and 7. There are not many plays for students in the middle years and even fewer that reflect Australian connections with Asian culture. Celeste is a half French, half Chinese Australian and she is carrying her mother's ashes back to China where she will meet her grandmother. Por Por is a ghost hunter and there are many people who require her unique skills. She is delighted to see Celeste and takes her along when she sets out on her unusual occupation. Often unhappy ghosts haunt homes and cause trouble and it takes a ghost hunter to shift them on. It turns out Celeste may have the same innate abilities and with one difficult ghost, her support, and that of her grandmother's helper, Ting Ting, is vital. Both Por Por and Celeste must come to terms with the death of a beloved family member and while grief is explored in this play and there are also moments of joy and laughter as well as exciting plot twists and mysteries to solve.

A Ghost in My Suitcase won the 2019 AWGIE Award for Theatre for Young Audiences.

NSW 7-10 syllabus and text connections

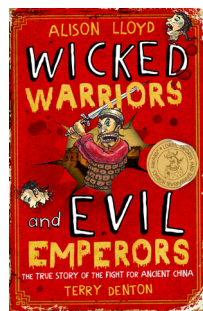
Text Requirements:

Drama text, cultural, social and gender perspectives

Concepts:

Context and Perspective, Characterisation

Connecting Texts:



Honey Spot | Jack Davis

(1987)

Australian

Tim is a First Nations' boy and Peggy is a white girl and their friendship raises issues of racism, reconciliation, and identity. Elements of dance and helpful stage directions make this an accessible and easy to perform play which is in many schoolbook rooms.



NSW 7-10 syllabus and text connections

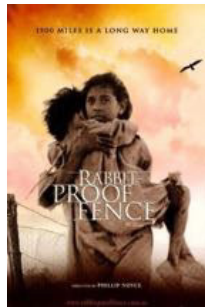
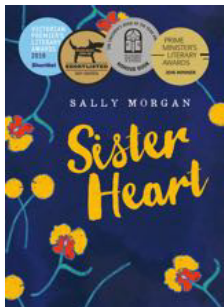
Text Requirements:

Drama text, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and Australian author

Concepts:

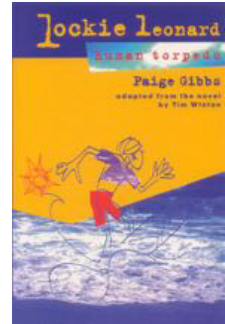
Context and Perspective, Narrative, Representation

Connecting Texts:



Lockie Leonard: Human Torpedo | Paige Gibbs

adapted from Tim Winton's novel of the same name
(1996)
Australian



Lockie Leonard has arrived in Angelus but it's tough when your father is the new local cop. Winton's wonderful tale of surfing, family and first love are all transferred into this engaging drama script.

NSW 7-10 syllabus and text connections

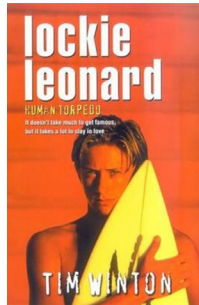
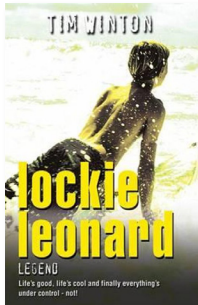
Text Requirements:

Drama text, Australian author

Concepts:

Characterisation, Representation

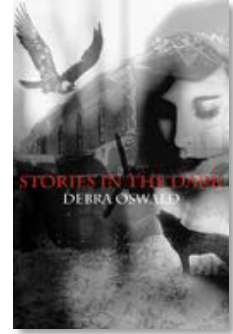
Connecting Texts:



Stories in the Dark | Debra Oswald

(2008)

Australian



Twelve-year-old Tomas has been separated from his parents and is alone in a war-torn city with a strong resemblance to Sarajevo. He meets up with sixteen-year-old Anna in a derelict house and despite a bumpy start they do manage to share resources to survive. Tomas is desperate to find his family while Anna has only a small hope that her mother has survived. Annoyed and irritated by Tomas' reluctance to go to sleep in the dark Anna tells him remembered stories that bind the two together. While Tomas eventually finds his brother, Anna is not so lucky. This is a powerful play about the power of friendship to sustain us and of story to revive us but don't look for all happy endings. Stories in the Dark would go well at the end of Year 8 or with a Year 9 class.

NSW 7-10 syllabus and text connections

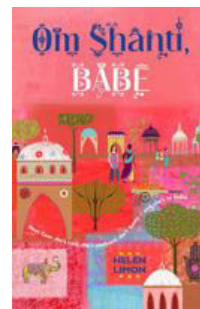
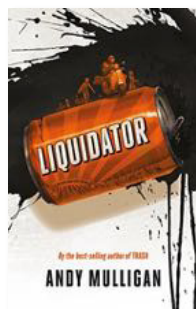
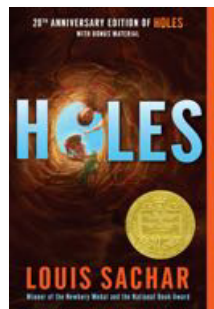
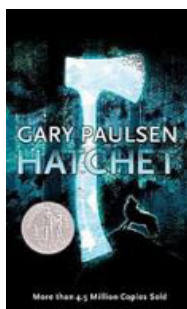
Text Requirements:

Drama text, Australian author

Concepts:

Context and Perspective, Narrative, Representation

Connecting Texts:



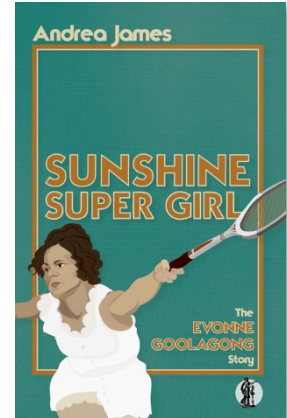
Sunshine Super Girl | Andrea James

(2021)

Drama

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander author

Australian author



Yorta Yorta/Gunaikurnai writer and director, Andrea James, dramatises the story of Australian tennis champion, Evonne Goolagong-Cawley in this powerful celebration of spirit, talent and passion which led a girl from the bush to be a world champion. Actors perform on either side of a tennis net stretched across the stage as they explore Evonne's early life and the poverty, adversity and racism she encountered amid her challenging climb to the top of her sport. She inspired countless Australians, and her story is told with humour and lyricism. Students could investigate Evonne's role at the 2022 Australian Open when another First Nations' Australian, Ash Barty, won the same trophy that Evonne did.

NSW 7-10 syllabus and text connections

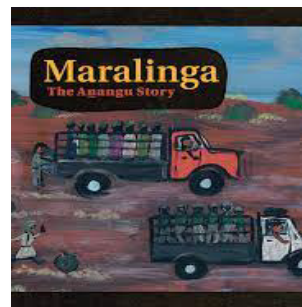
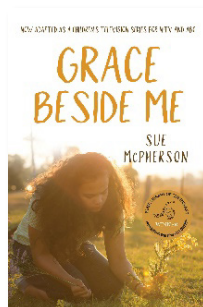
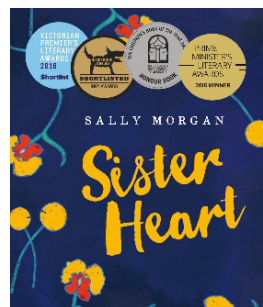
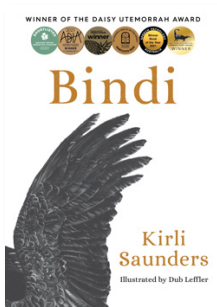
Text Requirements:

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander author, Australian author, youth cultures

Concepts:

Narrative, Authority, Representation

Connecting Texts:



Stage 4: Years 7 & 8 – Poetry Texts

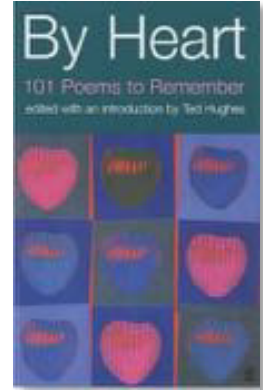


By Heart: 101 Poems to Remember | Tim Hughes

(1997)

British

This selection emphasises the joy of memorising poetry for recitation and ranges from Shakespeare and Keats through to Auden and Heaney. In his introduction, Ted Hughes argues for more students to come to poetry through learning it off by heart. And for more students to speak their poetry, out loud and bold.



NSW 7-10 syllabus and text connections

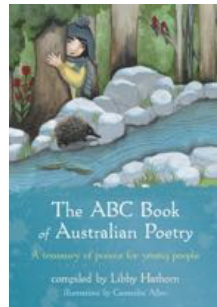
Text Requirements:

Poetry collection

Concepts:

Context, Connotation, Imagery and Symbol

Connecting Texts:



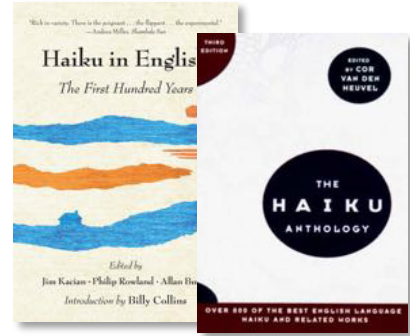
Haiku in English: The First Hundred Years | Jim Kacian, Phillip Rowland, & Allen Burns

(2013)

The Haiku Anthology | Cor Van Den Heuvel

(1999)

British



These two anthologies will provide inspiration and poetic variety in the classroom. *Haiku in English: The First Hundred Years* has more than 800 poems by nearly 240 poets. The reader finds many single poems sequestered on a solitary page while others share the page, but the overwhelming impression is of few words on a large white backdrop. The *Haiku Anthology* edited by Cor Van Den Heuvel has over 800 poems as well, reflecting the simplicity and imagery of the original form. It delivers revealing poems to delight the reader. Both anthologies could find a welcome place in a 7-12 classroom.

NSW 7-10 syllabus and text connections

Text Requirements:

Poetry collection

Concepts:

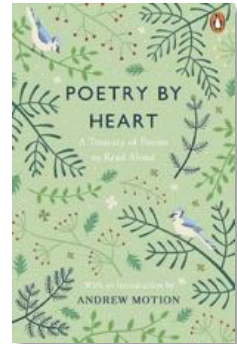
Connotation, Imagery and Symbol, Context and Perspective

Connecting Texts:



Poetry by Heart: poems for learning and reciting | Julie Blake, Mike Dixon, Andrew Morton & Jean Sprackland eds

(2014)
British



This selection of over 200 familiar and unfamiliar poems from Beowulf to Wendy Cope and Carol Ann Duffy is based on the UK secondary school recitation competition, with an emphasis, naturally enough, on poems that delight the ear as well as the eye. A full-page note on each poem can be found at the back of the book and more than 100 poems have a QR code next to them. If you have this code app on your mobile phone or tablet you can scan the code and find yourself listening to the poem you have selected.

NSW 7-10 syllabus and text connections

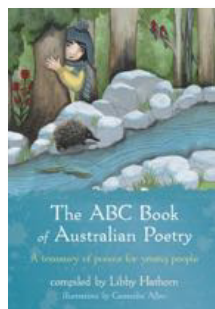
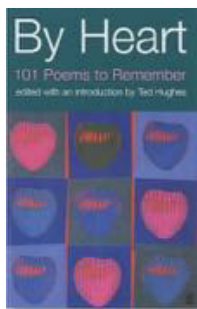
Text Requirements:

Poetry collection

Concepts:

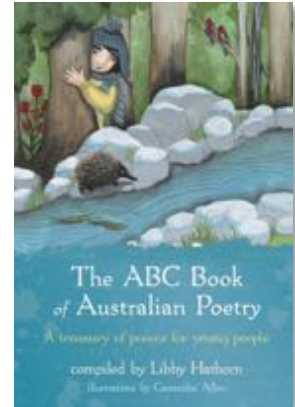
Context and Perspective, Connotation, Imagery and Symbol

Connecting Texts:



The ABC Book of Australian Poetry | Libby Hathorn

Illustrated by Cassandra Allen
(2010)
Australian



Despite its rather young cover this is a fine anthology for the secondary classroom. Hathorn says she was concerned about some classic works slipping away from our consciousness and took the opportunity in this anthology to 'invigorate classic works and highlight contemporary Australian voices'. The use of the metaphor of a river to connect each section works very well as we start at the beginning and move through the mountains, forests and plains to then head for the city on the coast and the sea. Resources are available at <https://readingaustralia.com.au/lesson/the-abc-book-of-australian-poetry/>

NSW 7-10 syllabus and text connections

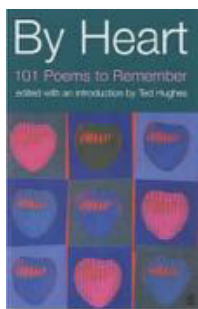
Text Requirements:

Poetry collection

Concepts:

Context and Perspective, Connotation, Imagery and Symbol

Connecting Texts:



Uluru Statement From The Heart

Made by delegates at the Referendum Convention at Uluru

(26 May 2017)

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander



"We, gathered at the 2017 National Constitutional Convention, coming from all points of the southern sky, make this statement from the heart..." The statement includes a call for the creation of a Makarrata Commission 'to supervise a process of agreement-making between governments and First Nations and truth-telling about our history'

Note: Makarrata is a complex Yolngu word describing a process of conflict resolution, peacemaking and justice. It is a philosophy that helped develop and maintain lasting peace among the Yolngu people of north-east Arnhem Land.

NSW 7-10 syllabus and text connections

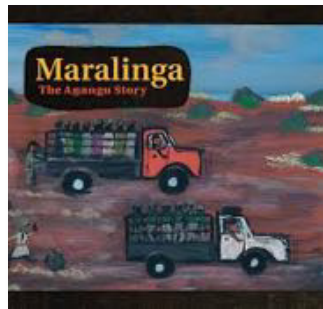
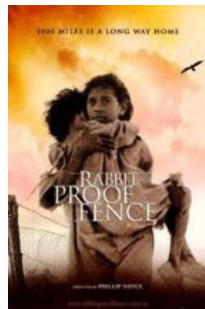
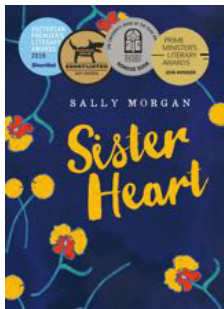
Text Requirements:

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander author, Poetry and non-fiction text

Concepts:

Context and Perspective, Connotation, Imagery and Symbol

Connecting Texts:



Stage 4: Years 7 & 8 – Non-Fiction Texts



Animal Heroes | Anthony Hill

(2005)

Australian

The animals in this collection of stories range from the donkey who carried wounded men to safety at Gallipoli to dogs that helped Australian troops at war. Their courage and loyalty to the humans in their lives is celebrated in these stories. Hill has used interviews and firsthand sources to bring these animals back to life. *Animal Heroes* is an engaging way to introduce students to the features of nonfiction with its photographs, maps, captions, index and links. It captures your heart through the animals and gives insights to an aspect of war that may not be well-known.



NSW 7-10 syllabus and text connections

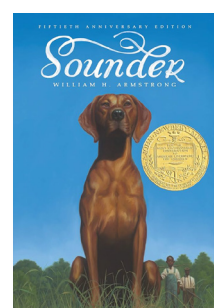
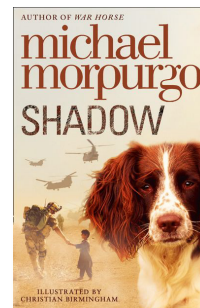
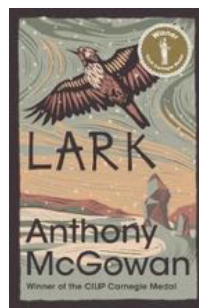
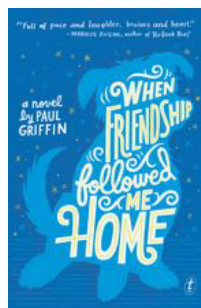
Text Requirements:

Extended prose, Australian author, non-fiction

Concepts:

Genre, Authority, Context and Perspective

Connecting Texts:



Gone to the Woods | Gary Paulsen

(2021)

American

In this memoir of the first two decades of his life Paulsen gives insight into the experiences that he used to write survival stories. At five his alcoholic mother sends him from Chicago to his aunt's farm in Minnesota. He travels there alone on the train and finds love and security but then his mother reclaims him and takes him to the Philippines where his father is serving. Both parents ignore him as they sink deeper into their drinking. Returning to the US Paulsen takes the reader into his attempts to escape and the profound influence a kind librarian had on him. The third person narration captures the trauma and the tragedy with revealing humour and insight into the practical skills that helped him survive such a lost childhood.



NSW 7-10 syllabus and text connections

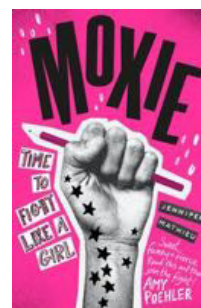
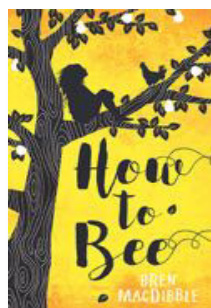
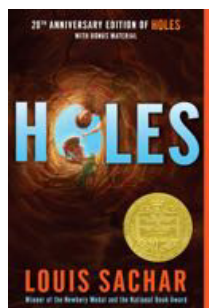
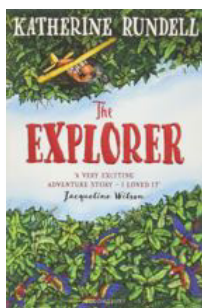
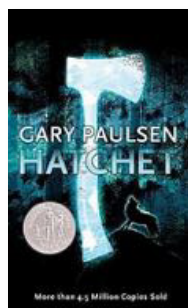
Text Requirements:

Extended prose, non-fiction, from around the world

Concepts:

Genre, Narrative, Authority, Context and Perspective

Connecting Texts:

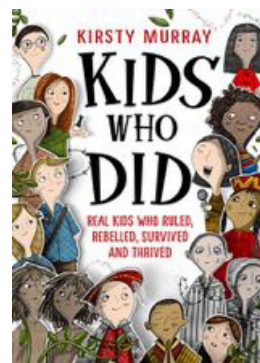


Kids Who Did | Kristy Murray

(2019)

Australian

There are forty true stories in this collection to celebrate kids who did amazing things. They have courage, resilience and the ability to stand up and face the world. There are human rights crusaders, sports champions, prisoners and workers and their stories are fascinating to read. Kids Who Did is based on an earlier work by the same author, Tough Stuff (1999) which may be in book rooms.



Teaching notes are available at A&U site.

NSW 7-10 syllabus and text connections

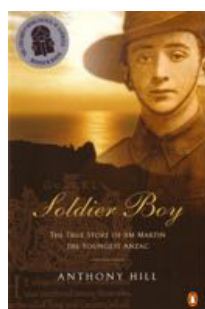
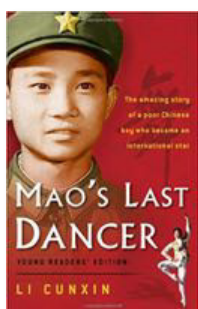
Text Requirements:

Short prose, non-fiction, Australian author

Concepts:

Context and Perspective, Characterisation, Theme

Connecting Texts:

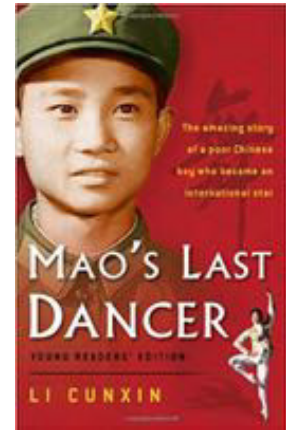


Mao's Last Dancer: Young Readers' Edition | Li Cunxin

(2005)

Australian

Eleven-year-old Li was a Chinese peasant in a large family when he was chosen to study ballet at the Beijing Dance Academy. Li was young and a long way from his family and found the tough conditions and arduous training sessions difficult. But he persevered and ballet became his passion. He defected from China and became an international ballet dancing star and a principal dancer in the Australian Ballet. An Australia Story (ABCTV) episode – Leap of Faith – works well with this text.



NSW 7-10 syllabus and text connections

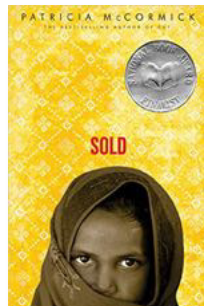
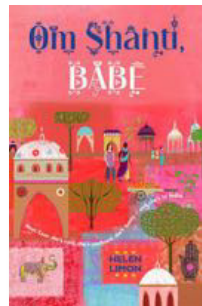
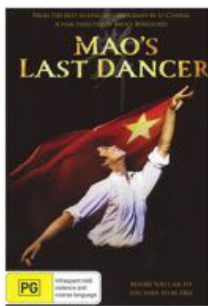
Text Requirements:

Extended prose, non-fiction, Australian author

Concepts:

Authority, Context and Perspective

Connecting Texts:



No One is Too Small to Make a Difference | Greta Thunberg

(2019)
Swedish



Greta began her call to action on climate change in August 2018. She was a fifteen-year-old schoolgirl, on a lonely school strike outside the Swedish Parliament. Her individual action has since grown into a global movement and her message has resonated with people of all ages and ethnicities, but particularly with the young. Students from twelve to eighteen can read her words in this small, 68-page volume of speeches and their bluntness, bravery and honesty is inspiring. "It's up to us" she says, "I want you to panic ... I want you to act as if our house is on fire. Because it is." (p25) Greta's speeches, in print and on video, represent youth and advocacy in a compelling way and have a place in many classrooms.

NSW 7-10 syllabus and text connections

Text Requirements:

Short prose, non-fiction, speeches from around the world, youth cultures

Concepts:

Authority, Context and Perspective

Connecting Texts:

Severn Cullis-Suzuki: at the Earth Summit in Brazil 1992

Malala Yousafzai: at United Nations Youth Assembly July 2013

Kevin Rudd: 'Apology to the Stolen Generation' Feb 2008

Paul Keating: 'Redfern Speech' Dec 1992

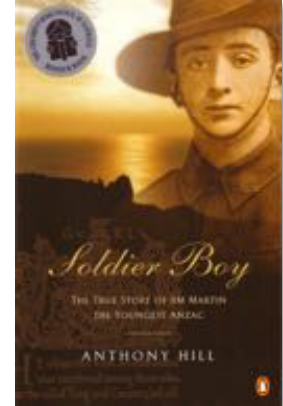


Soldier Boy | Anthony Hill

(2001)

Australian

Fourteen-year-old Jim Martin was one of the youngest known ANZACs. Anthony Hill has recreated his story through family memories, letters and imaginative recreation. The reader follows Martin through his enlistment (where he puts up his age) and his journey to the front line at Gallipoli where he died of typhoid. The horror and waste of war are clearly described.



NSW 7-10 syllabus and text connections

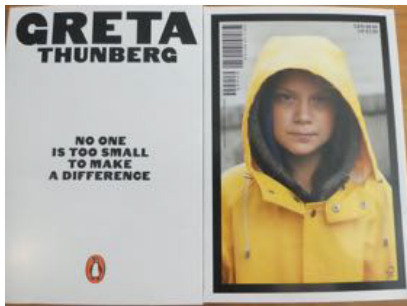
Text Requirements:

Extended prose, non-fiction, Australian author

Concepts:

Genre, Context and Perspective, Narrative

Connecting Texts:

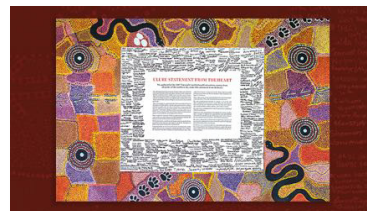


Uluru Statement from The Heart

Made by delegates at the Referendum Convention at Uluru

(26 May 2017)

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders



Also appeared in the poetry section.

NSW 7-10 syllabus and text connections

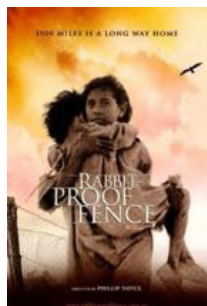
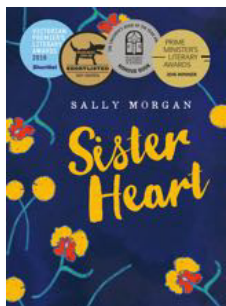
Text Requirements:

Short prose, non-fiction, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander authors

Concepts:

Context and Perspective, Authority, Connotation, Imagery and Symbol

Connecting Texts:



Extra Notes

Inanimate Alice | Kate Pullinger and Chris Joseph

Note: With the new Inanimate Alice offline editions teachers and students can avoid slow connections and the story is available immediately. Viewers can go to a desired scene and jump forward or backwards in the story. Wizards put all five episodes on your desktop, and you can navigate across the whole story. Students can investigate the story more deeply and progress at their own pace. This digital text comes with extensive teaching ideas and materials that are freely available online.

[Back to Title](#)

The Assassination of Brangwain Spurge | MT Anderson & Eugene Yelchin

Note: The Assassination of Brangwain Spurge is a mind-stretching collaboration that takes our Tolkien-inspired assumptions about goblins and elves and gives them a good shake while also taking aim at worn out ideologies and tyranny. If you add in barrels of humour, serial barbarity and grossness you get some idea of what you are in for when you open this explosive cover.

[Back to Title](#)

Ubby' s Underdogs: The Legend of the Phoenix Dragon | Brenton E McKenna

Note: Brenton McKenna, who is of Aboriginal and Malay descent, mixes Chinese legend and fantasy while showcasing the cultural diversity of Broome. The cast of characters are described and pictured at the beginning of the text, which really helps to orientate the reader. This book is part of a trilogy.

[Back to Title](#)

Wadjda | Haifaa Al-Mansour

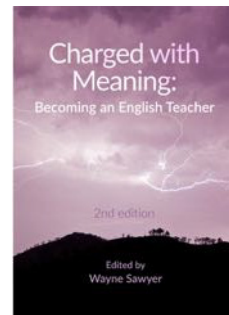
Note: Filming was difficult in a segregated city and the female director, Haifaa Al-Mansour, spent a great deal of her time in a van with a monitor. But she said she wanted to make a film that was powerful and showed the neighbourhood, the school experience for girls, and the daily life of people in Saudi Arabia. She didn't want to make a film that made the viewer feel like a victim and she has certainly succeeded in that.

[Back to Title](#)

Charged with Meaning: Becoming an English teacher | Wayne Sawyer (ed)

(2019)

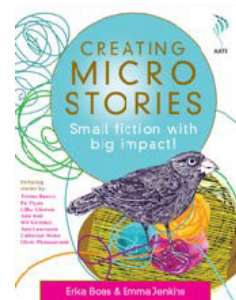
This comprehensive look at the many aspects of being an English teacher is written by practising English teachers and teacher educators. Chapters include teaching the novel, poetry, Shakespeare, other drama, lesson and unit planning, and digital and YA texts. There is a wealth of classroom experiences in these chapters with practical ideas and strategies to support teachers. Positive and accessible theory and research is also available to guide teachers.



Creating Micro Stories | Erika Boas & Emma Jenkins AATE interface series

(2019)

Micro stories (or sudden, quick or flash fiction) are a wonderful way to get students engaged with writing. This excellent text details strategies to get students writing micro fiction and the text provides many examples of student work as well as that of teachers and authors. The message is clear; what is not told is as important as what is told. Readers can be led to infer and interpret through their exploration of other writers; and this can be done in a form that seems perfectly suited to the digital age. The flexibility and opportunity to work on a smaller scale will pay dividends for students as they gain confidence and expertise in writing well. Creating Micro Stories will be an invaluable asset for secondary English teachers with its clear structure, excellent ideas to use in the classroom, chapters devoted to all the elements of writing fiction and a story index of 47 stories for students to enjoy and emulate.

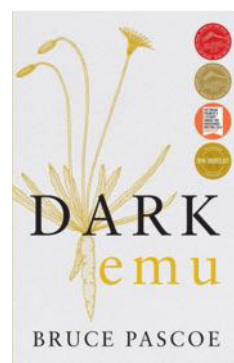


Dark Emu | Bruce Pascoe

(2018)

Dark Emu is a compelling account of Indigenous food production, land management and housing construction in Australia. It is brought to us by the comments, diaries and records of the early European settlers and explorers. And what they saw and wrote about was not reflected in the information many students (including this reviewer) learnt at school about the First Australians.

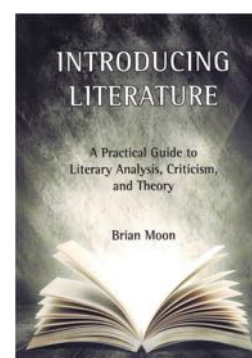
English teachers across the country are implementing the Cross-Curriculum Priority of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Histories and Cultures by taking advantage of the high-quality contemporary novels, plays, poetry and films by Indigenous authors. *Dark Emu* will open eyes and provide a valuable reference text for English faculties as they help today's students understand their continent and its history.



Introducing Literature: A Practical Guide to literary Analysis, Criticism, and Theory | Brian Moon

(2016)

Introducing Literature continues Chalkface's fine tradition. Its sub-title tells you exactly what you are getting here, a practical guide to Literacy Analysis, Criticism and Theory. There is no question of falling into the trap of knowing more about theory and little about texts with Brian Moon guiding the way. The eight chapters address why we study literature; making literary judgements; understanding the roles of reader, writer, text, and context; responding to and analysing texts; creative response, and theory and ideology.



Moon provides wonderful scaffolds to assist students. *Introducing Literature* also contains an excellent resource of essential knowledge. Moon observes that some modern readers may benefit from an introduction to the connections between the Ancient Greek and Judean worlds and their English Resources influence on Western Literature. He provides brief summaries of Greek myths, narrative schemas, character archetypes, literary sources, Bible stories, and a timeline of English literature with features, dates and authors and their works of different eras and movements.

Listening from the Heart: Rewriting the Teaching of English with First Nations Voices | Cara Shipp

(2023)

Listening from the Heart is an outstanding resource for English teachers and faculties across Australia as we seek to do a better job of understanding and learning about, and from, First Nations people. Currently in NSW text requirements, for the *English Years 7-10 Syllabus* (2022), mandate that "Across each stage, the selection of texts must give students experiences of texts by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander authors". The new draft Stage 6 English syllabus shows the same commitment and contains some considerations for teaching texts authored by First Nations people. Many of these points are expanded and elucidated in Shipp's text.



This book is full of wisdom and great choices. You can find out whose Country you are on. You can learn about culture and appropriate protocols for working with community and you can absorb vignettes of practice. You can discover practical ideas on teaching specific texts and explore pedagogical approaches such as Yarning Circles and 8 Ways and study First Nations world views. You can browse a multitude of texts and find answers to frequently asked questions and you will be reassured and welcomed throughout the text, because you are in the hands of a guide you can trust.

Among the generous attributes in *Listening from the Heart* is comprehensive advice about terminology and "shrugging off the colonial lens" and how to establish classroom norms when dealing with texts by First Nations authors. Shipp showcases a marvellous array of texts as she explores the impressive, exponential increase in the publication of contemporary texts by First Nations authors, and recommends many texts to assist teachers in text selection. She provides synopses and resources including QR codes that take you directly to numerous texts by First Nations authors and available teaching notes, interviews and websites. Some of the texts explored will be familiar, such as Sally Morgan's moving verse novel *Sister Heart*; others are classics such as Jeanine Leane's *Purple Threads*, (stories based on her childhood growing up in Gundagai). Many are wonderful new texts including the stellar poetry collection *Fire Front*, and *Guwayu, For All Times* (a poetry collection commissioned by Red Room Poetry). Memoirs such as Amy Thunig's *Tell Me Again* and *Growing Up Aboriginal in Australia* and Archie Roach's *Tell Me Why* are also explored. Engaging and exciting YA texts also feature including those such as Gary Lonesborough's *The Boy from the Mish*, Claire Coleman's *Terra Nullius*, and Sue McPherson's *Grace Beside Me*.

Listening from the Heart will help teachers seek better ways to engage with First Nations People and their stories, history and culture. Every teacher will benefit from this kind, thoughtful text and faculties will have much to explore and discuss. This is the book of the year in terms of supporting teachers in the classroom and can be very highly recommended.

Cara Shipp is a Wiradjuri / Welsh woman and teacher who regularly presents at local and National conferences on incorporating First Nations perspectives into the English curriculum. Go to her blog for past presentations and teachers' notes at <https://missshipp.wordpress.com>

(2021)

Novel ideas is just brimming with practical and positive strategies for teachers teaching fiction in the middle years based on the best pedagogy. The narrowing of the way fiction is taught in schools and the urgent need for time and attention to diverse texts, wide reading programs and reading for pleasure, are real concerns addressed in this eminently realistic and valuable resource.




The authors call for a re-examination of our personal and professional relationship with novels and how we use them in the classroom. They acknowledge the importance of classics but also recognise the value of using more recent and diverse literature. Boas and Kerin urge us to build relevance and curiosity in our students by interrogating the craft and language of such texts as *A Monster Calls*, *Tiger Daughter*, *Nona and me*, *Being Bindy*, and *Flipped*.

Reading Australia website |


The Reading Australia website was created by the not-for-profit Copyright Agency with the goal of making it easier for teachers and students to explore Australian texts. Reading Australia champions Australia's rich literary history and presents thoughtful, stimulating, challenging, and sometimes provocative literary works for Australian students. It reflects the stories Australians tell and connects teachers with diverse and robust voices.

Secondary




The 7 Habits of Effective Writing
by David Mervin

- New Secondary: 500
- Available in paperback
- Paperback price: £10.00




The 1001 Questions
by David Mervin

- New Secondary: 500
- Available in paperback
- Paperback price: £10.00



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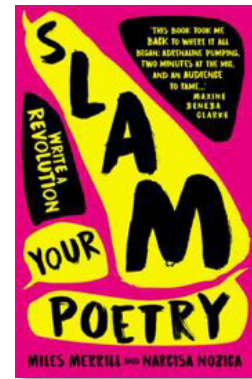
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Slam Your Poetry | Miles Merrill & Narcisa Nozica

(2020)

Miles Merrill is a performance writer and the founder of Australian Poetry Slam. Narcisa Nozica is an English teacher and winner of the NSW Premier's English Teachers' Association Scholarship. Together there is not much they don't know about helping young people find their poetic voice. This engaging, accessible and practical guide to writing your own poetry has three main sections. Write to speak covers ideas for writing and how to perform. Part 2 details how to set up a Slam and part 3, Teach a revolution, is both a rationale and a handbook about how to engage students and awaken the poet and artist within them. The appendixes have detailed online resources including spoken word and video collections, sample guidelines and templates for running your own Slam.



The RSC Shakespeare Toolkit for Teachers | Royal Shakespearean Company

(revised edition 2014)

This unique 304-page toolkit takes a practical and an active approach to bringing Shakespeare's plays alive in the classroom. The RSC has among the best credentials in the world for engaging students and exploring Shakespeare's plays. The toolkit focuses on Macbeth, Romeo and Juliet and A Midsummer Night's Dream and the bank of accessible and practical activities is a gift to teachers which can be transferred to many other plays. The worksheets are photocopiable and the teaching notes are supportive of teachers with limited drama experience.

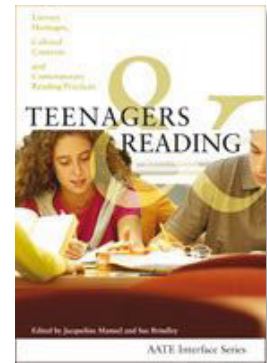


The revised edition retails for about \$110 so it's a faculty purchase.

Teenagers and Reading: Literary heritages, cultural contexts and contemporary reading practices| Edited by Jacqueline Manuel & Sue Brindley

(2012)

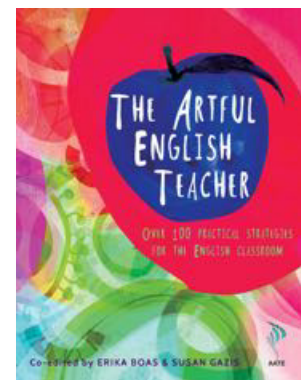
Teachers will appreciate both the international and Australian research on reading and teenagers in this excellent text. Particularly insightful is Jackie Manuel's chapter on research in Australia and the implications for classroom practice. Her concluding chapters suggest strategies for engaging students in reading, strategies for improving reading comprehension, strategies to support teenager who experience difficulty with reading and the outline and examples of the four phases of classroom experience when studying English texts are deeply rewarding reading for English teachers. The highly practical perspectives on the current state of teenagers' reading and the strategies suggested by teachers, researchers, and writers such as Libby Gleeson will be most helpful for the classroom teacher.



The Artful English Teacher | Erica Boas & Susan Gazis (eds.)

(2016)

Freshen up. Simplify. Look Again" was an injunction by Gareth Boomer to English teachers everywhere and this manual, edited by Erica Boas and Susan Gazis, lives up to that recommendation. In the introduction Wayne Sawyer compares the teacher to a conductor. While what the conductor is doing appears simple on the surface (waving a stick around) it hides the ability to read and interpret all the musical parts at once, play and understand the capabilities of diverse musical instruments and to motivate and co-ordinate all the players' parts into a whole. Hidden as well is the teacher's ability to co-ordinate many kinds of knowledge and to move students forward in their understandings, joys and skills in English. So 'artful' works very well indeed as the description of the teacher. The text is divided into the following sections: English Concepts, Fostering Collaboration, Learner Engagement, Differentiation, Gradual Release of Responsibility, Inquiry Approaches, Formative Feedback, Culminating Projects, Powerful Pedagogies, ICT & Digital Tools, Know Your Setting & Context, Community Engagement, Mentoring, Tips for Casual Teachers and the Role of Professional Associations.

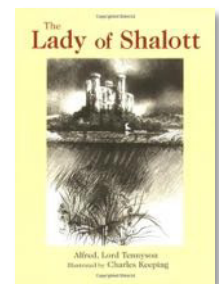
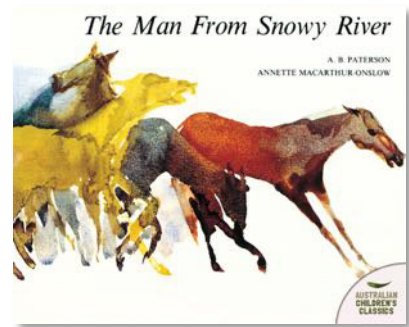


Classic Texts

Classic texts, such as those listed below, will continue to be selected for study in secondary schools.

Poetry Classics

Mathew Arnold Dover Beach
W. H. Auden Unknown Citizen
William Blake The Tyger
John Blight Death of a Whale
Elizabeth Bishop One Art
Emily Brontë Remembrance
Samuel Taylor Coleridge Kubla Khan
T. S. Eliot Love Song of J Alfred Prufrock,
Robert Browning My Last Duchess
Emily Dickinson Because I Could Not Stop for Death
Robert Frost Mending Wall
Gerard Manley Hopkins The Windhover
John Keats La Belle Dame Sans Merci and Ode To Autumn
D. H. Lawrence Last Lesson of the Afternoon
Henry Lawson Faces in the Street
John Milton On His Blindness
Alfred Noyes The Highwayman
Wilfred Owen Dulce et Decorum Est
Banjo Paterson The Man from Snowy River
Oodgeroo Noonuccal We Are Going
William Shakespeare Shall I Compare Thee to a Summer's Day?
Percy Bysshe Shelley Ozymandias
Kenneth Slessor Beach Burial
Alfred Tennyson The Lady of Shalott
Dylan Thomas Do Not Go Gentle into that Good Night
Judith Wright South of My Days



Fiction Classics

Louisa May Alcott Little Women
Jane Austen Pride and Prejudice and Emma
Charlotte Bronte Jane Eyre
Emily Bronte Wuthering Heights
Lewis Carroll Alice in Wonderland
Marcus Clarke For the Term of His Natural Life
Charles Dickens Great Expectations and Oliver Twist
Kenneth Grahame The Wind in the Willows
George Eliot Silas Marner

Miles Franklin My Brilliant Career
 William Golding Lord of the Flies
 Thomas Hardy Tess of the D'Urbervilles
 Frances Hodgson Burnett The Secret Garden
 Joseph Heller Catch 22
 Victor Kelleher Taronga
 Rudyard Kipling The Jungle Book
 George Johnston My Brother Jack
 Ursula le Guin The Earthsea Quartet
 D.H. Lawrence Sons and Lovers
 Harper Lee To Kill a Mockingbird
 C S Lewis The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe
 Melina Marchetta Looking for Alibrandi
 Michelle Magorian Goodnight Mr Tom
 Robert C O'Brien Z for Zachariah
 George Orwell Animal Farm
 Ruth Park Playing Beatie Bow
 Henry Handel Richardson The Getting of Wisdom
 John Steinbeck Of Mice and Men
 Colin Thiele Storm Boy
 J.R.R. Tolkien The Hobbit and The Lord of the Rings
 Oscar Wilde The Picture of Dorian Gray
 John Wyndham The Day of the Triffids and The Midwich Cuckoos



Drama Classics

Alan Seymour The One Day of the Year
 Alan Hopgood And the Big Men Fly
 Oscar Wilde The Importance of Being Earnest
 William Shakespeare Macbeth, Romeo and Juliet,
 The Merchant of Venice, Much Ado About Nothing
 and A Midsummer Night's Dream.
 Tennessee Williams The Glass Menagerie
 Richard Tulloch Year Nine Are Animals



Non-Fiction Classics

Albert Facey *A Fortunate Life*

John Hersey *Hiroshima*

Alan Marshall *I Can Jump Puddles*

Sally Morgan *My Place*

Gerald Durrell *My Family and Other Animals*

Anne Frank *The Diary of a Young Girl*

Classic Speeches

Severn Cullis-Suzuki: Address at the Earth Summit in Brazil 1992

Barack Obama: Election victory in Chicago 2008

Abraham Lincoln: Gettysburg Address 1863

Martin Luther King: 'I have a dream' 1963

Malala Yousafzai: Address at the United Nations 2013

Steve Jobs: Stanford Commencement Address 2005

Kevin Rudd: 'National Apology to the Stolen Generations' 2008

Paul Keating 'Funeral Service of the Unknown Australian Soldier' 1993, 'Redfern Speech' 1992

Julia Gillard: 'Misogyny Speech', Australian Federal Parliament 2012