

# BOOK OF THE YEAR

## awards 2021

Speech Pathology Australia

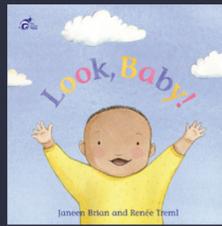


## THE BEST BOOKS FOR LANGUAGE AND LITERACY DEVELOPMENT

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

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

### BIRTH – 3 YEARS

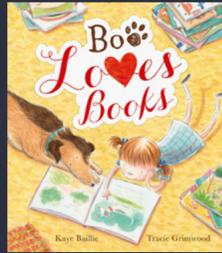


#### **Look, Baby!**

Written by Janeen Brian  
Illustrated by Renée Tremblay

*Look, Baby!* is a charming book that immediately arouses engagement and curiosity with its clever cut-out design. The characters are very relatable and identifiable. All of this is reinforced by the book's beautiful illustrations. The use of rhyme, repetition, and suspense encourages little ones to make simple predictions about what might happen next. The use of different words and phrases, like 'shiver-quiver', add beauty to the language and variety to the vocabulary. The sense of imagination is sparked by having hole cut-outs, which leads to discussion about what might happen next. The book's structure and length, its use of fonts, and illustrations is excellent, making it developmentally appropriate for this age group.

### THREE TO 5 YEARS

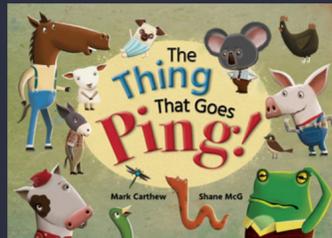


#### **Boo Loves Books**

Written by Kaye Baillie  
Illustrated by Tracie Grimwood

*Boo Loves Books* is a delightful story about a little girl named Phoebe who is a reluctant reader. The story discusses themes that are relatable to children of this age, namely the fear of making mistakes. The language is age appropriate and keeps the young reader engaged. The book consists of an engaging narrative including a clear beginning, middle and end, while exploring the different feelings of the characters. This encourages the young reader to connect to the characters and relate to these feelings. The book's gorgeous illustrations are colourful and appealing, providing curious young eyes with lots to explore. The book discusses the topic of anxiety in children and animals and overcoming their fears with support, all in a light-hearted manner. The ending is sweet and allows the young reader to think of what may happen next to the main characters.

### FIVE TO 8 YEARS

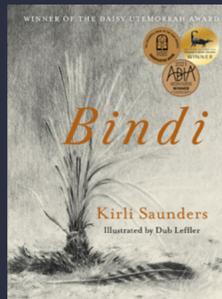


#### **The Thing That Goes Ping!**

Written by Mark Carthew  
Illustrated by Shane McG

*The Thing That Goes Ping!* is a whimsical picture book that features the delight of wordplay through rhythmic narrative and evocative illustration. This book provides an engaging and playful story that introduces the young reader to the concept of onomatopoeia. It offers a younger reader lots of repetition, rhyme, and onomatopoeia to build their confidence in reading aloud. Written in rhyme, the rhyming words are in bold. All of this is reinforced by a good story with a new character on every page. A beautifully illustrated book that heightens the level of engagement for a young reader. This title certainly passes the "read it again" test familiar to parents.

### EIGHT TO 10 YEARS

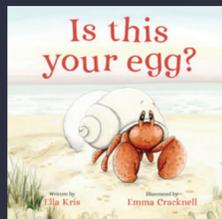


#### **Bindi**

Written by Kirli Saunders  
Illustrated by Dub Leffler

*Bindi* is a strong and fast-moving narrative that addresses the fear and community spirit that is linked to bushfires. Bindi, the central character is relatable to a young reader as she absorbs serious and adult discussions and the events around her, while maintaining a playful viewpoint. The consistent use of Gundunurra language throughout the text encourages the reader to learn more about First Nations culture, and the inclusion of a glossary of words assists with this. Curiosity and emotions are evoked throughout the text as the anticipation, experience and then aftermath of the bushfires occurs. Short descriptive passages often leave the reader wondering and filling in the clues to guess what will happen next. The text is presented in an interesting way with the use of additional spaces, indentations, and capitalisation.

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



#### **Is this your egg?**

Written by Ella Kris  
Illustrated by Emma Cracknell

*Is this your egg?* is a gorgeous book that really encapsulates First Nations culture and spirit. The story flows nicely and creates suspense and intrigue as a young reader follows the adventure of Henry the hermit crab, who sets out to find the owner of a mysterious egg. The author has incorporated Meriam Mer language of the Torres Strait for the animals that Henry meets. The book contains a glossary at the back that provides an English meaning and a pronunciation guide. The text is simple but full of ways parents and carers can target literacy and language goals for young readers. The illustrations are beautiful. Every animal is shown in its natural habitat. A very well written, and inclusive book. There is so much here for the young reader to learn and enjoy.