

# Announcing... The CBCA 2022 Shortlist Books

## Younger Readers Category

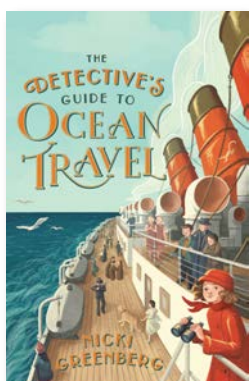


### Dragon Skin

Karen Foxlee

Published by Allen & Unwin | ISBN 9781760526108

This exceptionally well-crafted novel supports the reader to grow with 10-year-old Pip and her friends. Slowly but surely as part of the development of the characters and plot they are able to free themselves from manipulative, controlling and abusive situations in a sensitive and age-appropriate way. This book cleverly deals with themes of loneliness, emotional vulnerability, neglect, verbal and physical abuse and neglect in a calm, hopeful and dignified way and never detracts from the magic found by Pip, Laura and Archie. The parallel between Pip's needs and the needs of the baby dragon is cleverly written.

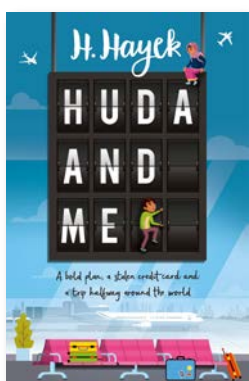


### The Detective's Guide to Ocean Travel

Nicki Greenberg

Published by Affirm Press | ISBN 9781922400673

This beautifully crafted historical novel powerfully transports readers back to a 1920s adventure via a group of young children. Each character is creatively brought to life and the author's style and red herrings ensure that the reader remains glued to each page. The actions, interactions and the relationships developed within the narrative explore social class, gender roles, parent / child roles, mystery and deception. The opulent extravagance of the first class setting is consistent throughout and the reader is ushered through it seamlessly by the protagonist's sense of wonder.



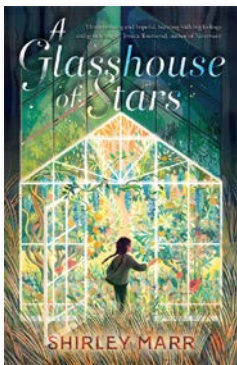
### Huda and Me

H. Hayek

Published by Allen & Unwin | ISBN 9781760526023

Offering a fresh perspective of Australian life with two children from a Lebanese-Australian family running away from home, the author uses an accessible and lighthearted style even when dealing with complex topics such as racism and cultural identity. Huda and Akael were a delight to read and their family's bond was portrayed realistically: at times humorous and other times duty-bound. The alternating chapters depicting their adventures create an engaging and fast-paced tale of family, mischief and adventure perfect for this age group where problems are best faced together.





### A Glasshouse of Stars

Shirley Marr

Published by Penguin Random House Australia | ISBN 9781760899547

Using the rarely seen second person point of view, Marr addresses both the reader and the protagonist in a tale of identity, belonging, social exclusion, cultural diversity and adaptation. This challenges the reader and makes the protagonist's emotions and fears direct and personal. The subtle magic of both the house and the glasshouse serves as an extension of the protagonist's emotions and provide her with hope. The story asks the reader to look beyond tragic and difficult events to a resilience that enables one to dream and addresses cultural biases, customs and expectations.



### Exit Through the Gift Shop

Maryam Master (text), Astred Hicks (illustrator)

Published by Pan Macmillan Australia | ISBN 9781760983512

An amusing, sensitive and at times heart-breaking look at life through the eyes of a 12-year-old. Supported by her best friend Al, Ana openly faces her terminal cancer diagnosis and treatment, her relationship with her parents' and their new partners, whilst also coping with bullying. The characters and plot are enhanced by strategically placed illustrations, changes in font, and cleverly inserted word definitions which enable the reader to access the content in a non-confronting way. Without offering a happily ever after ending, the difficulties Ana encounters are authentically portrayed with hope, humour and positivity.



### Rabbit, Soldier, Angel, Thief

Katrina Nannestad

Published by ABC: An Imprint of HarperCollins Publishers | ISBN 9780733341465

Inspired by a true story this book sensitively deals with the horrors, friendships, hardships and ingenuity that are the products of wartime. The four parts of the story are each foreshadowed by the motifs that Sasha collects, adding meaning to the telling. The parts are also reflected in the title enhancing the meaning-laden story full of sadness, tragedy, hope and joy. Sasha's innocence is conveyed beautifully, bringing light and joy to what could have been a very dark story. The characters are heart warming and engaging for the readers and a highlight of the story.

