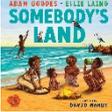


# READING AUSTRALIA'S CATALOGUE OF FIRST NATIONS TEXTS FOR THE CLASSROOM

**RESOURCES & RECOMMENDATIONS**

March 2026

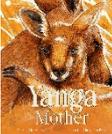
## WIDE READING RECOMMENDATIONS

	<b>TITLE</b>	Somebody's Land
	<b>AUTHOR</b>	Adam Goodes, Ellie Laing
	<b>ILLUSTRATOR</b>	David Hardy
	<b>PUBLISHER</b>	Allen & Unwin
	<b>ISBN</b>	9781760526726
	<b>YEAR</b>	F-2
	<b>THEMES</b>	community, First Nations peoples and cultures, truth-telling
	<b>AC LINKS</b>	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Histories and Cultures

PUBLISHER NOTES AVAILABLE

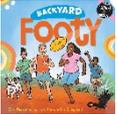
	<b>TITLE</b>	Three Dresses
	<b>AUTHOR</b>	Wanda Gibson
	<b>ILLUSTRATOR</b>	
	<b>PUBLISHER</b>	UQP
	<b>ISBN</b>	9780702266355
	<b>YEAR</b>	F-2
	<b>THEMES</b>	connection to Country, identity and belonging, impacts of colonisation, life on Aboriginal missions, surviving colonisation and Protection Acts
	<b>AC LINKS</b>	Critical and Creative Thinking, Personal and Social Capability // Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Histories and Cultures

PUBLISHER NOTES AVAILABLE

	<b>TITLE</b>	Yanga Mother
	<b>AUTHOR</b>	Cheryl Leavy
	<b>ILLUSTRATOR</b>	Christopher Bassi
	<b>PUBLISHER</b>	UQP
	<b>ISBN</b>	9780702268311
	<b>YEAR</b>	F-2
	<b>THEMES</b>	connection to Country, enduring traditions and cultures of First Nations peoples, identity and belonging, impacts of colonisation, importance of language, surviving colonisation and the Protection Act
	<b>AC LINKS</b>	Critical and Creative Thinking, Personal and Social Capability // Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Histories and Cultures

PUBLISHER NOTES AVAILABLE

	<b>TITLE</b>	Etta and the Shadow Taboo
	<b>AUTHOR</b>	Jared Field
	<b>ILLUSTRATOR</b>	Jeremy Worrall
	<b>PUBLISHER</b>	Hardie Grant Children's Publishing
	<b>ISBN</b>	9781760509798
	<b>YEAR</b>	F-3
	<b>THEMES</b>	belonging, First Nations peoples and cultures, respect, traditional stories, traditions
	<b>AC LINKS</b>	Intercultural Understanding, Personal and Social Capability // Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Histories and Cultures

	<b>TITLE</b>	Backyard Footy
	<b>AUTHOR</b>	Carl Merrison
	<b>ILLUSTRATOR</b>	Samantha Campbell
	<b>PUBLISHER</b>	Hachette Australia
	<b>ISBN</b>	9780734423191
	<b>YEAR</b>	F-4
	<b>THEMES</b>	community, friends, sport
	<b>AC LINKS</b>	Literacy, Personal and Social Capability

PUBLISHER NOTES AVAILABLE

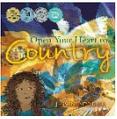
	<b>TITLE</b>	Backyard Tennis
	<b>AUTHOR</b>	Carl Merrison
	<b>ILLUSTRATOR</b>	Samantha Campbell
	<b>PUBLISHER</b>	Hachette Australia
	<b>ISBN</b>	9780734421548
	<b>YEAR</b>	F-4
	<b>THEMES</b>	community, friends, sport
	<b>AC LINKS</b>	Literacy, Personal and Social Capability

PUBLISHER NOTES AVAILABLE

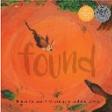
	<b>TITLE</b>	Finding Our Heart
	<b>AUTHOR</b>	Thomas Mayo
	<b>ILLUSTRATOR</b>	Blak Douglas
	<b>PUBLISHER</b>	Hardie Grant Explore
	<b>ISBN</b>	9781741177176
	<b>YEAR</b>	F-4
	<b>THEMES</b>	Australian history, connection to Country, First Nations people and cultures, national identity, Uluru Statement from the Heart
	<b>AC LINKS</b>	Ethical Understanding, Intercultural Understanding // Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Histories and Cultures

	<b>TITLE</b>	George the Wizard: Let your magic shine!
	<b>AUTHOR</b>	Tony Armstrong
	<b>ILLUSTRATOR</b>	Emma Sjaan Beukers
	<b>PUBLISHER</b>	Hachette Australia
	<b>ISBN</b>	9780734422163
	<b>YEAR</b>	F-4
	<b>THEMES</b>	acceptance, friendship, magic
	<b>AC LINKS</b>	Literacy, Personal and Social Capability

PUBLISHER NOTES AVAILABLE

	<b>TITLE</b>	Open Your Heart to Country
	<b>AUTHOR</b>	Jasmine Seymour
	<b>ILLUSTRATOR</b>	
	<b>PUBLISHER</b>	Magabala Books
	<b>ISBN</b>	9781922613769
	<b>YEAR</b>	2-4
	<b>THEMES</b>	Country, culture, identity, language, perspective, spirituality
	<b>AC LINKS</b>	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Histories and Cultures

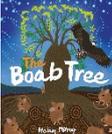
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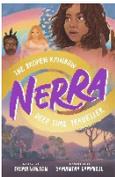
	<b>TITLE</b>	Found
	<b>AUTHOR</b>	Bruce Pascoe
	<b>ILLUSTRATOR</b>	Charmaine Ledden-Lewis
	<b>PUBLISHER</b>	Magabala Books
	<b>ISBN</b>	9781925936483
	<b>YEAR</b>	3–6
	<b>THEMES</b>	belonging, family, Stolen Generations
	<b>AC LINKS</b>	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Histories and Cultures

PUBLISHER NOTES AVAILABLE

	<b>TITLE</b>	Uncle Xbox
	<b>AUTHOR</b>	Jared Thomas
	<b>ILLUSTRATOR</b>	
	<b>PUBLISHER</b>	Magabala Books
	<b>ISBN</b>	97819222613363
	<b>YEAR</b>	3–6
	<b>THEMES</b>	gaming, identity, mentorship, relationships, resilience, responsibility, role models, surfing
	<b>AC LINKS</b>	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Histories and Cultures

PUBLISHER NOTES AVAILABLE

	<b>TITLE</b>	The Boab Tree
	<b>AUTHOR</b>	Helen Milroy
	<b>ILLUSTRATOR</b>	
	<b>PUBLISHER</b>	Fremantle Press
	<b>ISBN</b>	9781760994631
	<b>YEAR</b>	4–6
	<b>THEMES</b>	Country and identity, friendship, problem solving, Stolen Generations
	<b>AC LINKS</b>	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Histories and Cultures

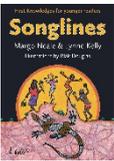
	<b>TITLE</b>	The Broken Rainbow
	<b>AUTHOR</b>	Tasma Walton
	<b>ILLUSTRATOR</b>	
	<b>PUBLISHER</b>	Scholastic Australia
	<b>ISBN</b>	9781760264567
	<b>YEAR</b>	5–6
	<b>THEMES</b>	ceremonies, connection to Country and place, First Nations cultures, First Nations languages, grief, sorry business
	<b>AC LINKS</b>	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Histories and Cultures

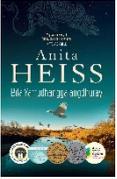
	<b>TITLE</b>	The Wonder of Little Things: Young Readers Edition
	<b>AUTHOR</b>	Vince Copley with Lea McInerney
	<b>ILLUSTRATOR</b>	
	<b>PUBLISHER</b>	HarperCollins Publishers Australia
	<b>ISBN</b>	9780733342462
	<b>YEAR</b>	5–6 7
	<b>THEMES</b>	belonging, choices, discrimination, families, grief and loss, health and wellbeing, identity, mental health, power, resilience
	<b>AC LINKS</b>	Ethical Understanding, Intercultural Understanding // Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Histories and Cultures

PUBLISHER NOTES AVAILABLE

	<b>TITLE</b>	Always Was, Always Will Be
	<b>AUTHOR</b>	Aunty Fay Muir, Sue Lawson
	<b>ILLUSTRATOR</b>	
	<b>PUBLISHER</b>	Magabala Books
	<b>ISBN</b>	9781922777614
	<b>YEAR</b>	5–6 7–9
	<b>THEMES</b>	decolonisation, First Nations peoples, freedom, justice, protest, self-determination, truth-telling
	<b>AC LINKS</b>	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Histories and Cultures

PUBLISHER NOTES AVAILABLE

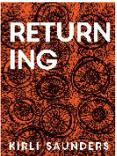
	<b>TITLE</b>	Songlines: First Knowledges for Younger Readers
	<b>AUTHOR</b>	Margo Neale, Lynne Kelly
	<b>ILLUSTRATOR</b>	Blak Douglas
	<b>PUBLISHER</b>	Thames & Hudson ANZ
	<b>ISBN</b>	9781760763480
	<b>YEAR</b>	5–6 7–10
	<b>THEMES</b>	First Nations knowledges, history
	<b>AC LINKS</b>	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Histories and Cultures

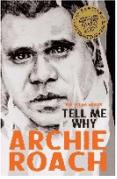
	<b>TITLE</b>	Bila Yarrudhanggalangdhuray
	<b>AUTHOR</b>	Anita Heiss
	<b>ILLUSTRATOR</b>	
	<b>PUBLISHER</b>	Simon and Schuster Australia
	<b>ISBN</b>	9781761104800
	<b>YEAR</b>	7–12
	<b>THEMES</b>	Australian history, belonging, First Nations stories, historical fiction
	<b>AC LINKS</b>	Ethical Understanding, Intercultural Understanding, Personal and Social Capability // Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Histories and Cultures

PUBLISHER NOTES AVAILABLE

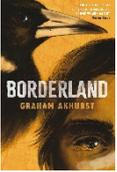
	<b>TITLE</b>	Fire Front: First Nations poetry and power today
	<b>AUTHOR</b>	Alison Whittaker (ed.)
	<b>ILLUSTRATOR</b>	
	<b>PUBLISHER</b>	UQP
	<b>ISBN</b>	9780702262722
	<b>YEAR</b>	7–12
	<b>THEMES</b>	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander customs and beliefs, black deaths in custody/youth detention, history wars, identity and belonging, impacts of colonisation, racism, Stolen Generations, surviving colonisation
	<b>AC LINKS</b>	Critical and Creative Thinking, Intercultural Understanding, Literacy, Personal and Social Capability // Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Histories and Cultures

PUBLISHER NOTES AVAILABLE

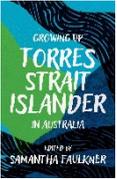
	<b>TITLE</b>	Returning
	<b>AUTHOR</b>	Kirli Saunders
	<b>ILLUSTRATOR</b>	
	<b>PUBLISHER</b>	Magabala Books
	<b>ISBN</b>	9781922613707
	<b>YEAR</b>	7–12
	<b>THEMES</b>	acceptance, Blak joy, decolonisation, First Nations peoples, First Nations languages (Dharawal, Dhurga, Gumea Dharawal, Gundungurra), freedom, identity, justice, love, matriarchy, queerness, self-determination, truth-telling
	<b>AC LINKS</b>	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Histories and Cultures

	<b>TITLE</b>	Tell Me Why for Young Adults
	<b>AUTHOR</b>	Archie Roach
	<b>ILLUSTRATOR</b>	
	<b>PUBLISHER</b>	Simon and Schuster Australia
	<b>ISBN</b>	9781760858865
	<b>YEAR</b>	7–12
	<b>THEMES</b>	First Nations stories, history, people and places, resilience
	<b>AC LINKS</b>	Ethical Understanding, Intercultural Understanding, Personal and Social Capability // Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Histories and Cultures

PUBLISHER NOTES AVAILABLE

	<b>TITLE</b>	Borderland
	<b>AUTHOR</b>	Graham Akhurst
	<b>ILLUSTRATOR</b>	
	<b>PUBLISHER</b>	UWA Publishing
	<b>ISBN</b>	9781760802646
	<b>YEAR</b>	8–10
	<b>THEMES</b>	belonging, cultural connection, ecology/nature, identity, land rights, mining/fracking
	<b>AC LINKS</b>	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Histories and Cultures, Sustainability

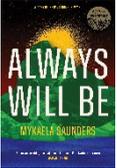
PUBLISHER NOTES AVAILABLE

	<b>TITLE</b>	Growing Up Torres Strait Islander in Australia
	<b>AUTHOR</b>	Samantha Faulkner (ed.)
	<b>ILLUSTRATOR</b>	
	<b>PUBLISHER</b>	Black Inc.
	<b>ISBN</b>	9781760644420
	<b>YEAR</b>	8–10
	<b>THEMES</b>	Australian history, culture, identity, kinship, racism, representation, resilience, Torres Strait Islander people
	<b>AC LINKS</b>	Intercultural Understanding // Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Histories and Cultures

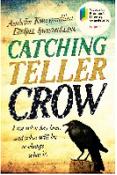
PUBLISHER NOTES AVAILABLE

	<b>TITLE</b>	My Spare Heart
	<b>AUTHOR</b>	Jared Thomas
	<b>ILLUSTRATOR</b>	
	<b>PUBLISHER</b>	Allen & Unwin
	<b>ISBN</b>	9781760631833
	<b>YEAR</b>	8–12
	<b>THEMES</b>	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander identities, alcoholism and addiction, basketball, connection to Country, family, family breakdown and divorce, racism and prejudice, self-esteem and mental health, sexual harassment and consent, strength of culture
	<b>AC LINKS</b>	Ethical Understanding, Intercultural Understanding, Personal and Social Capability // Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Histories and Cultures

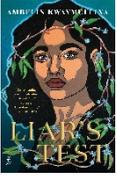
PUBLISHER NOTES AVAILABLE

	<b>TITLE</b>	Always Will Be
	<b>AUTHOR</b>	Mykaela Saunders
	<b>ILLUSTRATOR</b>	
	<b>PUBLISHER</b>	UQP
	<b>ISBN</b>	9780702266386
	<b>YEAR</b>	9–12
	<b>THEMES</b>	climate change and possibilities for adaptation, concepts of 'time' from a First Nations perspective, connection to Country, Goori customs and beliefs, heritage destruction and renewal, identity and belonging, impacts of colonisation, racism, Stolen Generations
	<b>AC LINKS</b>	Critical and Creative Thinking, Intercultural Understanding, Personal and Social Capability // Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Histories and Cultures, Sustainability

PUBLISHER NOTES AVAILABLE

	<b>TITLE</b>	Catching Teller Crow
	<b>AUTHOR</b>	Ambelin Kwaymullina, Ezekiel Kwaymullina
	<b>ILLUSTRATOR</b>	
	<b>PUBLISHER</b>	Allen & Unwin
	<b>ISBN</b>	9781760631628
	<b>YEAR</b>	9–12
	<b>THEMES</b>	Australian history, family, feminism, First Nations identity and culture, grief, justice, violence against women
	<b>AC LINKS</b>	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Histories and Cultures

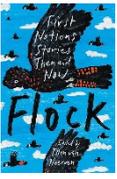
PUBLISHER NOTES AVAILABLE

	<b>TITLE</b>	Liar's Test
	<b>AUTHOR</b>	Ambelin Kwaymullina
	<b>ILLUSTRATOR</b>	
	<b>PUBLISHER</b>	Text Publishing
	<b>ISBN</b>	9781922790873
	<b>YEAR</b>	9–12
	<b>THEMES</b>	adventure, colonialism, empire, fantasy, First Nations, growth, mystery, personal strength
	<b>AC LINKS</b>	Critical and Creative Thinking, Personal and Social Capability

PUBLISHER NOTES AVAILABLE

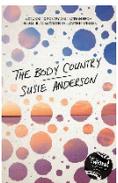
	<b>TITLE</b>	Born Into This
	<b>AUTHOR</b>	Adam Thompson
	<b>ILLUSTRATOR</b>	
	<b>PUBLISHER</b>	UQP
	<b>ISBN</b>	9780702263118
	<b>YEAR</b>	10–12
	<b>THEMES</b>	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander customs and beliefs, heritage destruction, history wars/Australia Day debate, identity and belonging, impacts of colonisation, racism, surviving colonisation
	<b>AC LINKS</b>	Critical and Creative Thinking, Intercultural Understanding, Literacy, Personal and Social Capability // Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Histories and Cultures

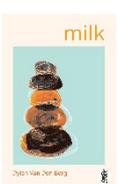
PUBLISHER NOTES AVAILABLE

	<b>TITLE</b>	Flock: First Nations Stories Then and Now
	<b>AUTHOR</b>	Ellen van Neerven (ed.)
	<b>ILLUSTRATOR</b>	
	<b>PUBLISHER</b>	UQP
	<b>ISBN</b>	9780702263033
	<b>YEAR</b>	10–12
	<b>THEMES</b>	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander customs and beliefs, heritage destruction, identity and belonging, impacts of colonisation, racism, Stolen Generations
	<b>AC LINKS</b>	Critical and Creative Thinking, Intercultural Understanding, Literacy, Personal and Social Capability // Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Histories and Cultures

PUBLISHER NOTES AVAILABLE

	<b>TITLE</b>	The Great Undoing
	<b>AUTHOR</b>	Sharlene Allsopp
	<b>ILLUSTRATOR</b>	
	<b>PUBLISHER</b>	Ultimo Press
	<b>ISBN</b>	9781761151668
	<b>YEAR</b>	10–12
	<b>THEMES</b>	belonging, colonialism, digital literacy, First Nations peoples and cultures, freedom, identity, language, truth
	<b>AC LINKS</b>	Critical and Creative Thinking, Ethical Understanding, Intercultural Understanding, Literacy, Personal and Social Capability // Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Histories and Cultures
	<b>TITLE</b>	The Swan Book
	<b>AUTHOR</b>	Alexis Wright
	<b>ILLUSTRATOR</b>	
	<b>PUBLISHER</b>	Giramondo Publishing
	<b>ISBN</b>	9781922725431
	<b>YEAR</b>	10–12
	<b>THEMES</b>	climate change, connection to nature, connection to place, First Nations peoples and cultures, identity, sustainability
	<b>AC LINKS</b>	Ethical Understanding, Intercultural Understanding // Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Histories and Cultures, Asia and Australia's Engagement with Asia, Sustainability
	<b>TITLE</b>	The Visitors
	<b>AUTHOR</b>	Jane Harrison
	<b>ILLUSTRATOR</b>	
	<b>PUBLISHER</b>	HarperCollins Publishers Australia
	<b>ISBN</b>	9781460761991
	<b>YEAR</b>	10–12
	<b>THEMES</b>	belonging, belief systems, choices, ethics and social justice, humour, identity, migration and refugees, power, war and conflict
	<b>AC LINKS</b>	Ethical Understanding, Intercultural Understanding // Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Histories and Cultures
PUBLISHER NOTES AVAILABLE		

	<b>TITLE</b>	the body country
	<b>AUTHOR</b>	Susie Anderson
	<b>ILLUSTRATOR</b>	
	<b>PUBLISHER</b>	Hachette Australia
	<b>ISBN</b>	9780733649820
	<b>YEAR</b>	11–12
	<b>THEMES</b>	connection to Country, contemporary Indigeneity, grief, loss
<b>AC LINKS</b>	Critical and Creative Thinking, Intercultural Understanding, Literacy // Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Histories and Cultures	

	<b>TITLE</b>	Milk
	<b>AUTHOR</b>	Dylan Van Den Berg
	<b>ILLUSTRATOR</b>	
	<b>PUBLISHER</b>	Currency Press
	<b>ISBN</b>	9781760628550
	<b>YEAR</b>	11–12
	<b>THEMES</b>	culture (lost and found), identity
<b>AC LINKS</b>	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Histories and Cultures	