



# AUSTRALIA



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The following list is a sampling of the books we have on this subject. Children's, teen, and adult books are included here. Students and their parents should choose the books that are most appropriate for them.

## CHILDREN'S FICTION

### The Stupendously Spectacular Spelling Bee

by Deborah Abela

J F ABELA

*Terribly shy, India Wimble is brilliant at spelling and her loving family will do whatever it takes to help her compete in a televised national spelling bee in Sydney, Australia.* 215 pages

### The Visconti House

by Elsbeth Edgar

J F EDGAR

*Laura Horton has always been an outsider, more interested in writing, drawing, or spending time with her free-spirited family than in her fellow teens, but she is drawn to Leon, a new student, as together they explore the mysteries of her eccentric old house.* 287 pages

### The Bone Sparrow

by Zana Fraillon

J F FRAILLON

*Subhi's contained world as a refugee in an Australian permanent detention center rapidly expands when Jimmie arrives on the other side of the fence and asks him to read her late mother's stories to her.* 228 pages

### The Other Side of Summer

by Emily Gale

J F GALE

*Summer's father moves their family to Australia after the sudden death of her brother Floyd, and the only thing that keeps her grounded is Floyd's guitar, which was miraculously unharmed in the bombing that killed him.* 313 pages

### Pie in the Sky

by Remy Lai

J F LAI

*Knowing very little English, 11-year-old Jingwen feels like an alien when his family immigrates to Australia, but copes with loneliness and the loss of his father by baking elaborate cakes.* 380 pages

### Bob

by Wendy Mass and Rebecca Stead

J F MASS

*Visiting her grandmother in Australia, Livy, 10, is reminded of the promise she made five years before to Bob, a strange, green creature who cannot recall who or what he is.* 201 pages

## YOUNG ADULT FICTION

### The Lines We Cross

by Randa Abdel-Fattah

YA F ABDEL-FATTAH

*Basketball enthusiast Michael attends anti-immigration rallies with his parents until a friendship with a Muslim refugee newcomer from Afghanistan compels him to question his family's politics.* 393 pages

↓ **Ten Things I Hate about Me**

by Randa Abdel-Fattah

YA F ABDEL-FATTAH

*Lebanese-Australian Jamilah, known in school as Jamie, hides her heritage from her classmates and tries to pass by dyeing her hair blonde and wearing blue-tinted contact lenses, until her conflicted feelings become too much for her to bear. 297 pages*

↓ **The Harper Effect**

by Taryn Bashford

YA F BASHFORD

*Sixteen-year-old Harper acquires a new tennis coach who partners her with the moody Colt, but between Colt's secrets and her love for her sister's ex-boyfriend, can Harper make her tennis dreams come true? 401 pages*

↓ **Love and Other Perishable Items**

by Laura Buzo

YA F BUZO

*Fifteen-year-old Australian Amelia gets her first job and first crush on her unattainable university-aged co-worker, as both search for meaning in their lives. 243 pages*

↶ ↓ **Stolen**

by Lucy Christopher

YA F CHRISTOP

*Sixteen-year-old Gemma is abducted while on vacation with her parents and taken to the Australian outback, where in time she learns that her captor is not as despicable as she first believed. 299 pages*

↶ **A Girl in Three Parts**

by Suzanne Daniel

YA F DANIEL

*In 1970s Australia, sixth-grader Allegra splits her time between her grandmother and grieving father until the tragedy that created the rift between them puts her in the hospital. 316 pages*

↓ **Munro vs. the Coyote**

by Darren Groth

YA F GROTH

*Munro Maddux goes to Australia on a student exchange in order to try and deal with his younger sister's death. 276 pages*

**Girl Defective**

by Simmone Howell

YA F HOWELL

*Friendship, love, and a mystery fill the life-changing summer of 15-year-old Sky, who lives with her unconventional family in a run-down record store in St. Kilda, a seaside suburb of Melbourne, Australia. 301 pages*

↓ **Ready When You Are**

by Gary Lonesborough

YA F LONESBOR

*The arrival of a boy with a troubled past challenges Jackson to confront the changing shapes of his relationships with his friends, family and community—and face his darkest secret. 239 pages*

↓ **Jellicoe Road**

by Melina Marchetta

YA F MARCHETT

*Abandoned by her drug-addicted mother at the age of 11, high school student Taylor Markham struggles with her identity and family history at a boarding school in Australia. 419 pages*

↓ **Saving Francesca**

by Melina Marchetta

YA F MARCHETT

*Francesca could use her mother's help as her all-girl school turns co-ed, but her mother has suddenly become severely depressed. 243 pages*

**Feeling Sorry for Celia**

by Jaclyn Moriarty

YA F MORIARTY

*Life is pretty complicated for Elizabeth Clarry and her relationships with her mother, father, and best friend. Making matters more interesting, because her English teacher wants to rekindle a love of letter writing, a complete stranger knows more about her than anyone else. 276 pages*

**If Not Us**

by Mark Smith

YA F SMITH

*Australian surfer Hesse Templeton, 17, takes his first hesitant steps into environmental activism in this optimistic call to action.* 260 pages

**Henry Hamlet's Heart**

by Rhiannon Wilde

YA F WILDE

*Despite their differences, soon to be 18-year-olds Henry Hamlet and Lennon Crane have been best friends for most of their lives, but in their senior year at Northholm Grammar School for Boys in Brisbane, Australia, Henry realizes he is in love with Len.* 317 pages

**Wildlife**

by Fiona Wood

YA F WOOD

*Two 16-year-old girls in Australia come together at an outdoor semester of school, before university—one thinking about boys and growing up, the other about death and grief, but somehow, they must help each other to find themselves.* 385 pages

**Velocity**

by Chris Wooding

YA F WOODING

*Cassica and Shiara have grown up in Coppermouth, a dust choked town in the Outback, but now they hope to use their skills as race driver and mechanic to take on the Widomaker, an off-road rally through some of the most dangerous places on Earth, to win fame and fortune—provided they survive the race.* 325 pages

**Bridge of Clay**

by Markus Zusak

YA F ZUSAK

*Upon their father's return, the five Dunbar boys, who have raised themselves since their mother's death, begin to learn family secrets, including that of fourth brother Clay.* 537 pages

**ADULT FICTION****The Silence**

by Susan Allott

F ALLOTT

*Reluctantly returning to her Sydney hometown when her father is implicated in a disappearance from 30 years earlier, Isla confronts devastating secrets about her parents and their long-ago next-door neighbors.* 295 pages

**Oscar & Lucinda**

by Peter Carey

F CAREY

*A teenaged heiress, who buys a glass factory in Australia, and a rebellious Anglican priest pursue an unlikely romance.* 433 pages

**Boy Swallows Universe**

by Trent Dalton

F DALTON

*Exiled to a drug-oppressed suburb in 1980s Australia, a 12-year-old boy dreams of a career in journalism while fighting off local criminals to protect his imprisoned mother.* 452 pages

**Relativity**

by Antonia Hayes

F HAYES

*Ethan is a bright young boy obsessed with physics and astronomy who lives with his mother, Claire, and who is becoming curious about his father's absence from his life. When Ethan intercepts a letter from his father Mark to Claire, he unleashes long-suppressed forces which pull all three together again.* 362 pages

**The Book of Science and Antiquities**

by Thomas Keneally

F KENEALLY

*Obsessively researching prehistoric remains believed to represent a link between Africa and ancient Australia, an award-winning documentary filmmaker uncovers the complex world of a peaceful, 40,000-year-old tribal human.* 289 pages

**Bittersweet**

by Colleen McCullough

F MCCULLOUGH

*Tells the story of four sisters navigating work, love, and their dreams in 1920s Australia.* 376 pages

↓ **Family Baggage**

by Monica McInerney

F MCINERNE

*When travel agent Harriet Turner's foster sister Lara vanishes on the eve of an overseas trip, Harriet finds herself left alone guiding a busload of eccentric senior citizens as she confronts questions about her family and her childhood.* 499 pages

↶ ↓ **The Light Between Oceans**

by M.L. Stedman

F STEDMAN

*On a remote Australian island, a childless couple live quietly running a lighthouse, until a boat carrying a baby washes ashore.* 345 pages

**The Slap**

by Christos Tsiolkas

F TSIOLKAS

*At a festive barbecue in the Melbourne suburb a man slaps the child of another couple, triggering a court case and a variety of confrontations within the lives of the families and friends present.* 482 pages

**The Swan Book**

by Alexis Wright

F WRIGHT

*Two aboriginal "promise children" have very different backgrounds, and as their destinies entwine, they are left asking if there is room in the modern world for traditional culture.* 307 pages

## ADULT NONFICTION

**The Great Barrier Reef**

by Len Zell

578.7789 ZEL

*Produced in partnership with the BBC's The Great Barrier Reef television series, this book takes readers on a journey along 2,300 km of Australia's north-eastern coastline.* 249 pages

**Kangaroo: Portrait of an Extraordinary Marsupial**

by Stephen Jackson

599.222 JAC

*A book on the ecology, history, and behavior of kangaroos. It details their interaction with the original inhabitants and the European settlers of Australia and discusses at how to best manage the population.* 338 pages

**Aboriginal Art**

by Wally Caruana

759.9941 CAR

*For some 50,000 years, Aboriginal artists have built on traditions and worked in a variety of contexts. From the sacred and secret realm of ceremony to more public spheres, and in media that include painting, sculpture, engraving, constructions, weaving, photography, printmaking, and textile design.* 216 pages

↶ ↓ **In a Sunburned Country**

by Bill Bryson

919.4046 BRY

*The author takes readers on a tour of the land Down Under that goes far beyond packaged-tour routes.* 335 pages

↓ **Tracks**

by Robyn Davidson

919.4046 DAV

*Robyn Davidson had one goal, to travel across the Australian desert, alone, with nothing but her dog and four camels. This book recounts her journey.* 270 pages

**A Commonwealth of Thieves**

by Thomas Keneally

994.02 KEN

*A history of the European settlement of Australia tells the story of Captain Arthur Phillip, who was empowered to govern a colony comprised primarily of unskilled criminals and petty thieves, disgruntled military men, and a sometimes hostile native population.* 385 pages



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