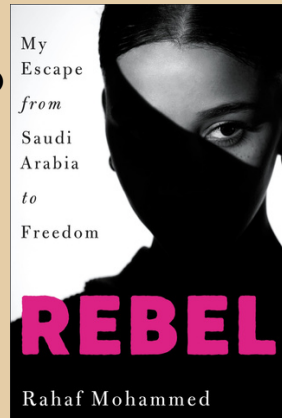


Welcome to our Staff Picks newsletter where we will share with you what we are reading, listening to or watching!

Rebel: My Escape from Saudi Arabia to Freedom

Rahaf Mohammed
eBook, eAudiobook

A gripping memoir of bravery and sacrifice by a young woman whose escape from her abusive family and an oppressive culture in Saudi Arabia captivated the world.



In early 2019, after three years of careful planning, Rahaf Mohammed finally escaped her abusive family in Saudi Arabia—but made it only to Bangkok before being stripped of her passport. If forced to return home, she was sure she would be killed, like other rebel women in her country. As men pounded at the door of her barricaded hotel room, she opened a Twitter account. The teenager reached out to the world, and the world answered—she gained 45,000 followers in one day, and those followers helped her seek asylum in the West.

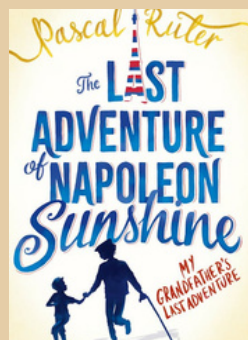
The Last Adventure

Ruter Pascal
Book

At the age of eighty-five my grandfather Napoleon decided he needed to try something new . . .

Everything starts to go south when Napoleon leaves his wife. At eighty-five, a former boxer with a restless, youthful spirit,

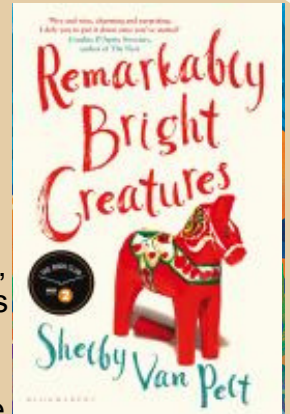
Napoleon decides to say to hell with it all! He wants a new life. Determined to rebel against everything that takes the fun out of life, Napoleon embarks on a moving adventure with his ten-year-old grandson Leonard Sunshine in tow.



Remarkably Bright Creatures

Shelby Van Pelt
Book

What do you get when you put an ageing cleaning lady, a 30-year old bloke who has struggled to get his life together, and a Giant Pacific Octopus in the same room? Well, if you're lucky, you can clear-up a lifelong family mystery.



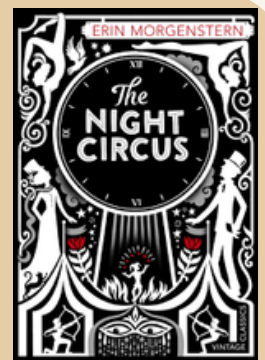
"It was the octopus which lured me into this story about captive lives: those of a sentient creature on display at the public aquarium, as well as those of the Bay's human residents. Although Marcellus contributes his voice every few chapters, the focus is on the human stories. It was an easy book to read from a new author."
Melanie - Edenhope Library

The Night Circus

Erin Morgenstern
Book

Dreamt up by an eclectic group of aesthetes and artistes, le Cirque des Reves appears without announcement, and opens from dusk until dawn.

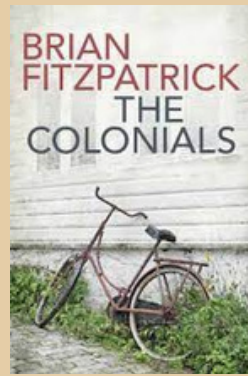
Its performers are exceptional, but none so much as the contortionist and the illusionist. Behind the scenes – the only place where colour exists in the black and white extravaganza – two magicians duel to win a competition of which they're only partly aware, neither knowing that the only way to win is to be the last one standing. Set at the end of the 19th century, this is a lavish, dizzying story of love, longing and ultimate sacrifice in a world where magic is carefully contrived to look like illusion.



The Colonials

Brian Fitzpatrick
Book

Nearly half a century ago, a young Australian journalist without a newspaper decided to try his hand at writing a novel. He was Brian Fitzpatrick, who was later to win public notice as an historian, as a radical



polemicist and lobbyist on the fringe of the Labour movement, and as first General Secretary of the Australian Council for Civil Liberties. Yet *The Colonials* is far more a 'psychological' novel than a social panorama or a story with a plot.

Sunrise Over Mercy Court

Fiona McCallum

Book, eBook, eAudiobook

Howard and Elsie Manning were born on the same day, met at kindergarten, and have been married for 59 years. They have lived sensible, productive lives, and raised two self-sufficient daughters. Now, at 78, they are bored with the predictability of life, fed up with contemporary society, have aching joints and dwindling finances, and - funeral by funeral - their circle of friends is shrinking. Worst of all, they are grieving for their beloved, recently deceased dog Maisie.



Together Howard and Elsie consider bringing their lives to a peaceful end, but it turns out leaving this world is not easy, especially if they want to avoid pain or mess. Even the apparently simple methods have much room for error, as they discover.

Then a knock at the door changes everything ...

A Court of Frost and Starlight

Sarah J. Maas

Book

Feyre, Rhysand, and their friends are still busy rebuilding the Night Court and the vastly altered world beyond, recovering from the war that changed everything. But Winter Solstice is finally approaching, and with it, the joy of a hard-earned reprieve.



Nest

Terry Goodkind

Book

When a murder investigation reveals family secrets and exposes her to a shadowy network of evil, Kate accepts a mysterious author's offer to find answers, but time is running short as a force of super-



predator killers is hot on their trail. In the middle of a Chicago police investigation into a brutal murder, Kate Bishop discover she has the ability to identify killers just by looking into their eyes. Kate is tracked down by Jack Raines, a mysterious author with shadowy connections to those who share her ability.

Homecoming

Kate Morton

eBook, eAudiobook

Adelaide Hills, Christmas Eve, 1959: At the end of a scorching hot day, beside a creek on the grounds of the grand and mysterious mansion, a local delivery man makes a terrible discovery. A police investigation is called and the small town of Tambilla becomes embroiled in one of the most shocking and perplexing murder cases in the history of South Australia.



Sixty years later, Jess is a journalist in search of a story. Having lived and worked in London for almost twenty years, she now finds herself laid off from her full-time job and struggling to make ends meet. A phone call out of nowhere summons her back to Sydney, where her beloved grandmother, Nora, who raised Jess when her mother could not, has suffered a fall and been raced to the hospital.

At loose ends in Nora's house, Jess does some digging of her own. In Nora's bedroom, she discovers a true crime book, chronicling the police investigation into a long-buried tragedy: the Turner Family Tragedy of Christmas Eve, 1959. It is only when Jess skims through the book that she finds a shocking connection between her own family and this once-infamous crime—a crime that has never been resolved satisfactorily. And for a journalist without a story, a cold case might be the best distraction she can find...

Welcome to our Staff Picks newsletter where we will share with you recommendations for our favourite childrens' content.

Twirly Woos: There's Somebody at the Door

DVD

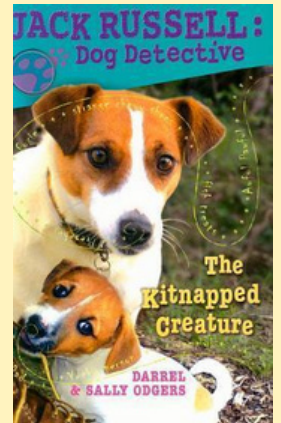
Waggle your wings, puff your chest and get ready for a hilarious flight of discovery with the Twirlywoos, a comedy pre-school series which features the adorable antics of four mischievous, bird-like characters; Great Big Hoo, Toodloo, Chickedy and Chick. What's that? It's somebody at the door! Join the Twirlywoos on their Big Red Boat as they find out who's visiting them today.



Jack Russell: Dog Detective - The Kitnapped Creature

Darrel and Sally Odgers
Junior book

Someone is imprisoned in a horrible cage! Jack is trying to get caught by Ranger Johnny Wolf! What is Foxie up to? And just who is sharing Jack's basket these days? Things are mixed-up in Doggeroo. Everything was fine until Sarge got sick. Now Auntie Tidge is looking after Jack, but Foxie is being disagreeable (again). When will Sarge be back? In no time, Jack has both a case and a moral dilemma or two. Is it right to leave his most dangerous enemy trussed up in a cage? And, who will mind the pup Preacher while he's off detecting?



Quentin Blake's magical tales

John Yeoman
Junior book

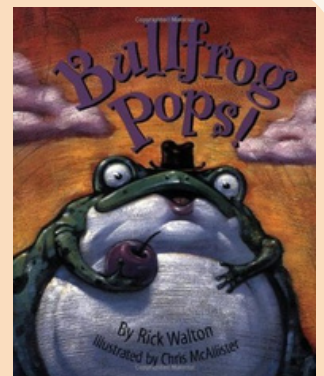
Quentin Blake's Magical Tales is a wonderful treasury of stories full of adventure and mystery from around the world. Compellingly retold and beautifully illustrated, this is a collection of stories children will adore.



Bullfrog Pops!

Rick Walton
Picture book

Last seen hopping a stage . . . (coach) and finding his hop in Once There was a Bull . . . (frog), our hero is now on an eye-popping eating binge trying to cure his insatiable appetite where each page must be turned to complete the sentence. Woven through the western town of Ravenous Gulch, the story leaves a cast of many hopping mad. However, just as things look bleak, transitive and intransitive verbs turn the tables and take Bullfrog on another adventure. Part of Rick Walton's tremendously successful Language Arts series.



Press Here

Herve Tullet
Board book

Press the yellow dot on the cover of this book, follow the instructions within, and embark upon a magical journey! Each page of this surprising book instructs the reader to press the dots, shake the pages, tilt the book, and who knows what will happen next!

