



2026 CBCA Book of the Year Shortlist



Book of the Year: Older Readers

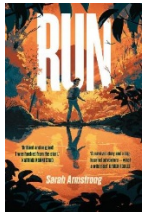
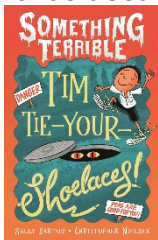
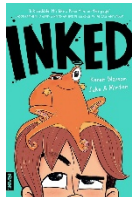
Entries in this category may be fiction, drama or poetry and should be appropriate in style and content for readers in their secondary years of schooling. Ages 13–18 years.

Title	Author	Publisher	ISBN
Of Flame and Fury 	Mikayla Bridge	Macmillan Australia	9781761563805
Darkest Night, Brightest Star 	Barry Jonsberg	A&U Books for Children and Young Adults	9781761180385
This Stays Between Us 	Margot McGovern	Penguin Random House Australia	9781761346286
We Saw What You Started 	Carla Salmon	Pan Australia	9781761566790
Golden 	Jade Timms	Text Publishing	9781923058354
Unhallowed Halls 	Lili Wilkinson	A&U Books for Children and Young Adults	9781760631673

Book of the Year: Younger Readers



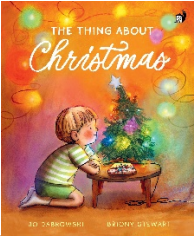
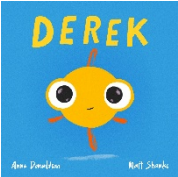
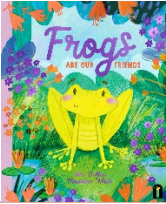
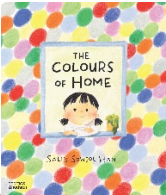
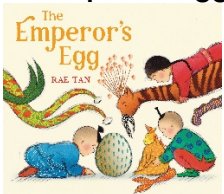
Entries in this category may be fiction, drama or poetry and should be appropriate in style and content for readers from the middle to upper primary years. Ages 7–12 years.

Title	Author	Illustrator	Publisher	ISBN
Run 	Sarah Armstrong		Hardie Grant Children's Publishing	9781761214561
Something Terrible: Tim Tie-Your-Shoelaces 	Sally Barton	Christopher Nielsen	Walker Books Australia	9781760658564
Little Bones 	Sandy Bigna	Tamlyn Teow	University of Queensland Press	9780702268878
Spirit of the Crocodile 	Aaron Fa'Aoso & Michelle Scott Tucker with Lyn White		A&U Books for Children and Young Adults	9781743317099
The Paperbark Tree Committee 	Karys McEwen		Text Publishing	9781922790705
Inked 	Karen Wasson	Jake A Minton	Figment Books	9781761212475



Early Childhood

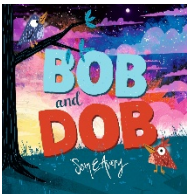
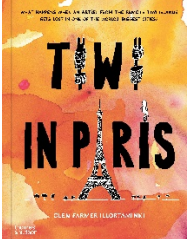
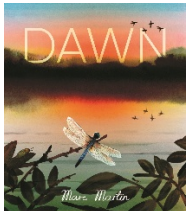
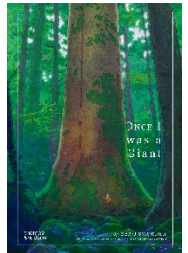
Entries in this category may be fiction, drama or poetry and should be appropriate in style and content for children who are at pre-reading or early stages of reading. Ages 0–6 years.

Title	Author	Illustrator	Publisher	ISBN
The Thing About Christmas 	Jo Dabrowski	Briony Stewart	Little Book Press	9781923141407
Derek 	Anne Donaldson	Matt Shanks	Little Hare	9781761215537
Frogs Are Our Friends 	Toni D'Alia	Madeline White	Bright Light	9781761212987
My Nonno Loves 	Adelle Frittitta	Claudia Frittitta	Little Hare	9781761214479
The Colours of Home 	Sally Soweol Han	Sally Soweol Han	Thames and Hudson Australia	9781760764654
The Emperor's Egg 	Rae Tan	Rae Tan	Lothian Children's Books	9780734422514

Picture Book of the Year



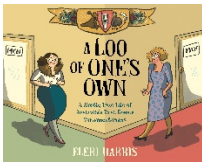
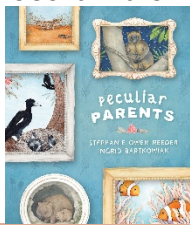
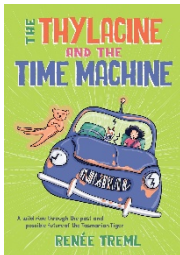
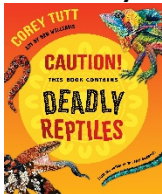
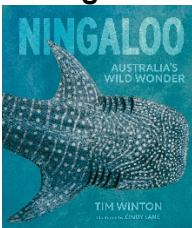
Entries in this category should be outstanding books of the Picture Book genre in which the author and illustrator achieve artistic and literary unity or, in wordless picture books, where the story, theme or concept is unified through illustrations. Ages 0–18 years.

Title	Illustrator	Author	Publisher	ISBN
Bob and Dob 	Sean E Avery	Sean E Avery	Walker Books Australia	9781760658113
Tiwi in Paris 	Glen Farmer Illortaminni	Glen Farmer Illortaminni	Thames and Hudson Australia	9781760764944
Dear Broccoli 	Cate James	Jo Dabrowski	Affirm Press	9781923022102
Dawn 	Marc Martin	Marc Martin	Walker Books Australia	9781529527346
The Frog's First Song 	Jason Phu	Jazz Money	University of Queensland Press	9780702268977
Once I was a Giant 	Zeno Swarder	Zeno Swarder	Thames and Hudson Australia	9781760764913



Eve Pownall Award

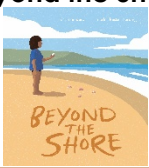
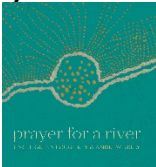
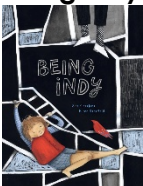
Entries in this category should be books which have the prime intention of documenting factual material with consideration given to imaginative presentation, interpretation and variation of style. Ages 0–18 years.

Title	Author	Illustrator	Publisher	ISBN
There's a Prawn in Parliament House: The Kids' Guide to Australia's Amazing Democracy 	Annabel Crabb	First Dog on the Moon	A&U Books for Children and Young Adults	9781760637750
A Loo of One's Own 	Eleri Harris	Eleri Harris	A&U Books for Children and Young Adults	9781761181832
Peculiar Parents 	Stephanie Owen Reeder	Ingrid Bartkowiak	NLA Publishing	9781922507822
The Thylacine and the Time Machine 	Renée Trembl	Renée Trembl	A&U Books for Children and Young Adults	9781761181184
Caution! This Book Contains Deadly Reptiles 	Corey Tutt	Ben Williams	A&U Books for Children and Young Adults	9781761181030
Ningaloo 	Tim Winton	Cindy Lane	Fremantle Press	9781760995324

Award for New Illustrator



This Award aims to recognise and encourage new talent in the field of Australian children's book illustration. Ages 0–18 years.

Title	Illustrator	Author	Publisher	ISBN
Save the Gum Trees, Bees and Big Blue Seas 	Luke John Matthew Arnold	Luke John Matthew Arnold	Scholastic Press	9781760264970
Beyond the Shore 	Mark Chester Harding	Kirli Saunders	Scholastic Press	9781761524646
A Loo of One's Own 	Eleri Harris	Eleri Harris	A&U Books for Children and Young Adults	9781761181832
Prayer for a River 	Uncle Glenn Loughrey	Andrew Kelly & Uncle Glenn Loughrey	Wild Dog Books	9781742036915
A Farm by the Sea 	Jillian Packer	Jillian Packer	Berbay Publishing	9781922610997
Being Indy 	Estee Sarsfield	Zoe Gaetjens	WestWords Children's	9781923044517

Please direct any queries about the Shortlist to awards@cbca.org.au.

The CBCA AWARDS FOUNDATION Proudly funding prizes for the Children's Book of the Year Awards

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