

Book of The Year Awards - would make a good Christmas Gift

Every year Speech Pathology Australia awards an award to a book across five different categories. These books are based on their appeal to children, interactive quality and ability to assist speech pathologists and parents in communication and literacy development. As well as being an Australian author, produced within the last 12 months and priced affordably. These books would therefore make a great gift for that special child in your life- especially with Christmas right around the corner!

This year's winners were:

Birth - three years "Once I Heard a Little Wombat" by Renée Trembl.

Is a small hard board book. The language of the text is simple with a lilting pattern. The book uses rhythm and rhyme to encourage language development. The story invites interaction through imitation of the actions of the characters. It allows for opportunities for verbal repetition and sentence completion. The story is short and based on Australian animals.

Three to five years "Something Wonderful" by Raweyn Caisley.

Is a lovely Australian story about a boy named Sam. An engaging and imaginative story that uses lots of descriptive language. The story encourages skills of inference, prediction and imagination through its use of uniquely Australian pictures.

Five to eight years "Funky Chicken: Chooks in Space" by Chris Collin.

This is a fantastically fun, funky book. An absurd tale that will engage children and adults alike, with characters that are wonderfully silly and appealing. The rhyming format encourages children to develop early literacy skills as too do the planet names. Underlying their fun is the issue of what makes a good place to live, which can be the starting point for further discussion with young readers.

Eight to ten years "New Boy" by Nick Earls.

Is the story of a boy who comes with parents and younger brother from South Africa to live in Australia. The characters are easily identifiable for the audience, and a strong story and appropriate language all help to extend the young reader's knowledge and literacy development. The story will also open the eyes of the young reader to the life they have here in Australia and the issues that children who are new of different may have in trying to fit in to the Australian way of life.

Indigenous Children "The Pearl-shell Diver" by Kay Crabbe

This is a gripping story about the history of the Torres Strait Islands and the diving industry. The characters are identifiable to Indigenous children and to a broader audience. It addresses topics such as the natural environment, geography, linguistics, anthropology, political and economic history, and health science. The language of the Torres Strait region and Mabuig language educate young readers about the linguistic diversity of Indigenous Australia.