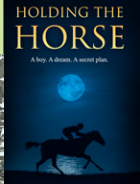
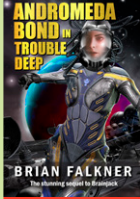


BEST NZ BOOKS FOR YOUNG READERS 2023



MEET MADHAV, MILA AND PHOEBE, OUR CHILDREN'S BOOK AWARDS AMBASSADORS

Our 2023 awards ambassadors are all keen readers who attend Te Kura O Te Tauawa Halswell School in Ōtautahi Christchurch.

12-year-old Madhav likes to curl up in bed and read graphic novels and verse novels, which he says are interesting, "and unlike normal novels they are pretty short, and pretty wild in some cases."

Mila, also 12, chooses a cosy, quiet corner as her ideal reading spot, because she wants minimal distraction while she's engrossed in a novel. One of her favourite authors is Jacqueline Wilson, who she says writes books that are very relatable.

One of 8-year-old Phoebe's best places for reading is under a blanket with a torch. She loves comic books, and she's really enjoying trying out manga at the moment. Her favourite New Zealand author is the "super awesome" Donovan Bixley. Phoebe thinks everyone should read, because "books give you a great imagination and they tell lots of stories".



KIA ORA TAMARIKI!

IF YOU'VE BEEN TRYING TO DECIDE WHICH PUKAPUKA TO READ NEXT, YOU'VE COME TO THE RIGHT PLACE.

THE JUDGES OF THE 2023 NEW ZEALAND BOOK AWARDS FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG ADULTS HAVE SELECTED 29 AWESOME FINALIST BOOKS THAT WILL BUILD YOUR KNOWLEDGE AND EXPAND YOUR IMAGINATION. LOOK OUT FOR THEM IN YOUR FAVOURITE BOOKSHOP, LOCAL LIBRARY, OR AT YOUR SCHOOL, AND DIVE IN! THESE BOOKS HAVE BEEN CREATED BY TALENTED NEW ZEALAND AUTHORS AND ILLUSTRATORS FOR KEEN READERS JUST LIKE YOU.

PICTURE BOOK AWARD

AN UNUSUAL DUCK, A FAREWELL JOURNEY, HONOURING CUSTOMS, FINDING FRIENDS, AND AN EMPOWERING FAIRYTALE



DUCK GOES MEOW

BY JULIETTE MACIVER, ILLUSTRATED BY CARLA MARTELL
PUBLISHED BY SCHOLASTIC NEW ZEALAND

A group of animal friends happily singing their animal sounds are puzzled when Duck goes "meow". As large, bold, brightly coloured animals dance around the pages, the clever rhyming text delivers humour while exploring the animals' expectations and eventual understanding of Duck. A delightfully cheerful story full of wholesome fun.

FAREWELL, ANAHERA

BY VANESSA HATLEY-OWEN, ILLUSTRATED BY SCOTT IRVINE,
TRANSLATED BY KANAPU RANGITAUIRA
PUBLISHED BY DUCK CREEK PRESS

An ethereal Anahera lies in the whareni, there and yet at the same time not there. As her whānau recount tales of remembrance and express their aroha, Anahera sets out on her farewell journey to Hawaiki. This bilingual story is steeped in tradition and rich with reassurance and comfort for anyone who has lost someone they loved.



HOW MY KORO BECAME A STAR

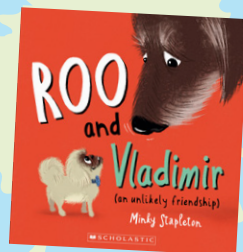
BY BRIANNE TE PAA, ILLUSTRATED BY STORY HEMI-MOREHOUSE
PUBLISHED BY HUIA PUBLISHERS

Having taught his mokopuna about the traditions of Matariki, Koro dies suddenly just before Matariki the following year. His mokopuna must share Koro's teachings and unite the whānau to honour Koro and ensure that he becomes a star. A tender and uplifting story about strengthening the bonds of whānau and tikanga.

ROO AND VLADIMIR: AN UNLIKELY FRIENDSHIP

WRITTEN AND ILLUSTRATED BY MINKY STAPLETON
PUBLISHED BY SCHOLASTIC NEW ZEALAND

Roo is a huge dog whose quest for friendship is hampered by his size. But when he makes friends with tiny Vladimir, Roo gains the confidence he needs to save the day. The illustrations capture Roo's emotions candidly and accentuate his bigness, while the story is humorously told with a lot of heart and a message of friendship that shines.



THE LIGHTHOUSE PRINCESS

BY SUSAN WARDELL, ILLUSTRATED BY ROSE NORTHEY
PUBLISHED BY PUFFIN, PENGUIN RANDOM HOUSE

A princess lives alone, navigating the maintenance of her lighthouse and a multitude of other activities, when a sudden storm appears – bringing with it a chance discovery of friendship. *The Lighthouse Princess* combines a wonderfully crafted story with alluring illustrations to create an inspired and refreshing modern fairytale.



BELOW

BY DAVID HILL
PUBLISHED BY PUFFIN, PENGUIN RANDOM HOUSE

Liam and Imogen can't agree on the environmental value of tunnels, so they take a forbidden trip into the tunnel that Liam's dad is working on. But it collapses and they're trapped, with rapidly rising water forcing them into a terrifying battle for survival. *Below* is an edge-of-the-seat rollercoaster ride from a master storyteller.

CHILDREN OF THE RUSH

BY JAMES RUSSELL
PUBLISHED BY DRAGON BROTHERS BOOKS

Two children meet on the bleak Otago goldfields of 1861 – a world of lawlessness, cruelty and greed, where wealth automatically confers status and power. Atarangi and Michael have neither, but each has a surprising magical talent. Will they be able to stop a vicious goldfields gang? A well-researched, thrilling, page-turning read.



JASON MASON AND THE WORLD'S MOST POWERFUL ITCHING POWDER

BY JASON GUNN AND ANDREW GUNN
PUBLISHED BY BATEMAN BOOKS

Jason Mason is a bullied and overlooked kid, who is actually a secret agent! Called in to save an unsuspecting Bledisloe Cup crowd from being blasted with powerful itching powder, he sets off on a madcap undercover mission to outsmart evil arch-villain, Hugh Jarse. Fast-moving and uproariously funny, this book will leave readers itching for more.

MASHER

BY FIFI COLSTON
PUBLISHED BY PUFFIN, PENGUIN RANDOM HOUSE

When ashes of his neighbour's dead bull terrier get into Freddie's papier-mâché mix, the result is an unpredictable, saliva-drooling puppet called Masher. While Freddie tries to work out who caused the dog's death and what happened to Ms Burns' cat, Masher causes mayhem. A laugh-out-loud romp through a quirky neighbourhood mystery.



PIPI AND POU AND THE RAGING MOUNTAIN

BY TIM TIPENE, ILLUSTRATED BY ISOBEL TE AHO-WHITE
PUBLISHED BY ONETREE HOUSE

A neglected mountain rumbles, preparing to move to a new home. Cousins Pipi and Pou use their superpowers to help their tohunga nana and local kaumātua make the maunga feel respected again. An exciting, action-packed adventure, brimming with humour, whānau and kaitiakitanga, and highlighting the need to care for our environment.

JUNIOR FICTION
WRIGHT FAMILY FOUNDATION
ESTHER GLEN AWARD

TUNNEL TERROR, GOLDFIELD
GANGSTERS, SECRET AGENT
ANTICS, PUPPET PANDEMONIUM
AND SUPERHERO SAVIORS

YOUNG ADULT FICTION AWARD



ANDROMEDA BOND IN TROUBLE DEEP

BY BRIAN FALKNER
PUBLISHED BY RED BUTTON PRESS

Welcome to Spacetown, venue for the first real life, zero gravity, live-streamed video game tournament. Andromeda Bond is a wildcard entry, an unknown competing against a field of famous gamers. Without knowing it, Andromeda has been preparing for this battle her whole life. A fast-paced thrill-ride that grips the reader and doesn't let go.

EDDY, EDDY

BY KATE DE GOLDI
PUBLISHED BY ALLEN & UNWIN

Two years after the 2011 Christchurch earthquake, Eddy Smallbone is a part-time pet-minder navigating young adulthood and the post-quake cityscape, and juggling increasing responsibilities as he rebuilds his life. Kate De Goldi's love of language and Christchurch shine through in this exquisite novel about faith, love, and loss.



INDIGO MOON

BY EILEEN MERRIMAN
PUBLISHED BY PENGUIN, PENGUIN RANDOM HOUSE

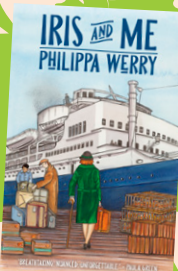
Indigo and Rigel are Offspring, the mutant children of genetically enhanced parents. They are also shapeshifting telepaths whose parents have banned them from even thinking about time travel. But Indigo is bored, and what's the worst that could happen? The first book in a new series, *Indigo Moon* is a pacey, gripping, thought-provoking thriller.

IRIS AND ME

BY PHILIPPA WERRY
PUBLISHED BY AHOY, THE CUBA PRESS

Philippa Werry tells the story of Iris Wilkinson (Robin Hyde) – poet, novelist, and journalist. On her way to England in 1938, Iris catches glimpses of the war in China and travels there, determined to reach the frontlines and report on what she sees. *Iris and Me* is a startlingly original verse novel with wide appeal.

A DEADLY GAME, COMING OF AGE, TIME TRAVEL, ADVENTURES OF A WAR REPORTER, AND A QUIRKY WHODUNNIT

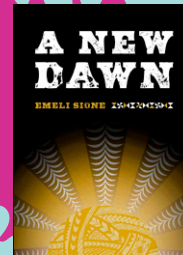


MIRACLE

BY JENNIFER LANE
PUBLISHED BY CLOUD INK PRESS

Miracle Jamieson is 14 with an embarrassing family and a crush on her best friend's boyfriend. When her dad's new job at the crematorium coincides with a spate of sudden deaths, Miracle's family become social outcasts, her dad gets arrested, and Miracle sets out to prove his innocence. Cleverly plotted, *Miracle* is a funny and moving mystery story.

NON-FICTION ELSIE LOCKE AWARD



A NEW DAWN

BY EMELI SIONE, ILLUSTRATED BY DARCY SOLIA
PUBLISHED BY MILA'S BOOKS

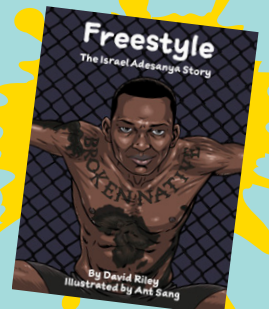
An important contribution to the history of Aotearoa, Emeli Sione shares her family's experiences of the Dawn Raids in 1970s Auckland. This highly personal story is followed by a summary of key facts in a more conventional non-fiction format, and an account of the Ifoga, the New Zealand government's apology.

DAWN RAIDS, BECOMING A CHAMPION, THE BIRD LADY, IN THE BEGINNING, AND CLOUDS AND CURRENTS

FREESTYLE: THE ISRAEL ADESANYA STORY

BY DAVID RILEY, ILLUSTRATED BY ANT SANG
PUBLISHED BY READING WARRIOR

David Riley tells the inspirational story of Ultimate Fighting Championship middleweight world champion Israel Adesanya, revealing how he overcame racism and dyslexia on his path to success. Powerful illustrations add impact to a book that encourages young readers to believe in themselves and follow their own paths, rather than giving in to pressure.



SYLVIA AND THE BIRDS

WRITTEN BY JOHANNA EMENEV AND SARAH LAING, ILLUSTRATED BY SARAH LAING
PUBLISHED BY MASSEY UNIVERSITY PRESS

This beautifully produced volume presents the life and work of the 'Bird Lady', Sylvia Durrant. Its varied and engaging design incorporates graphic novel techniques, photos and diagrams to help readers learn about Sylvia, New Zealand birds, the environment and kaitiakitanga, and to encourage them to become backyard bird heroes themselves.

TE WEHENGA: THE SEPARATION OF RANGINUI AND PAPAŪĀNUKU

WRITTEN AND ILLUSTRATED BY MAT TAIT
PUBLISHED BY ALLEN & UNWIN

Te Wehenga is an immersive and powerful retelling of the pūrākau of Ranginui and Papatūānuku. The poetic bilingual text is integrated into the artwork, evoking the swirling darkness of the beginning of the world. A sophisticated piece of storytelling which pushes boundaries, and will speak to both Māori and English language audiences.



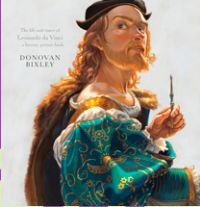
WEATHER AND CLIMATE NEW ZEALAND

BY SANDRA CARROD
PUBLISHED BY ORATIA BOOKS

Using informative graphics and a layout that guides readers through an astonishing range of facts, this is a factual and accessible book. A huge breadth of information is presented, from the difference between weather and climate, to understanding ocean currents, how to read a weather map, and how readers can help to reduce the climate crisis.



A PORTRAIT OF LEONARDO



A PORTRAIT OF LEONARDO

WRITTEN AND ILLUSTRATED BY DONOVAN BIXLEY
PUBLISHED BY UPSTART PRESS

Leonardo Da Vinci, one of the greatest artists of all time, is the subject of this stunningly illustrated biography. Frequently referencing the art of Leonardo himself, Donovan Bixley skilfully combines research, visual humour, puns and puzzles, technical skills and good old-fashioned drawing ability to produce an exceptional art book that is not at all stuffy.

FOUR YAKS AND A YETI

BY PETER HILLARY, ILLUSTRATED BY ANT SANG
PUBLISHED BY BATEMAN BOOKS

A young Nepalese boy ventures out with his four yaks to discover Shangri-La, encountering the legendary Yeti on his journey. Ant Sang's dynamic and detailed illustrations capture the mountainous environment and larger-than-life characters of this modern fable, and the expressions on the yaks' faces will delight readers.



ROAR SQUEAK PURR: A NEW ZEALAND TREASURY OF ANIMAL POEMS

EDITED BY PAULA GREEN, ILLUSTRATED BY JENNY COOPER
PUBLISHED BY PUFFIN, PENGUIN RANDOM HOUSE

This delightful collection of over 200 animal poems from Aotearoa writers is illustrated with warmth, verve and humour. Jenny Cooper's deft touch with a paintbrush brings every character to life, and the backgrounds, layout and choice of images allow poems to flourish and breathe, creating a beautiful, timeless and accessible anthology.

TE WEHENGĀ: THE SEPARATION OF RANGINUI AND PĀPATŪĀNUKU

WRITTEN AND ILLUSTRATED BY MAT TAIT
PUBLISHED BY ALLEN & UNWIN

Ranginui and Papatūānuku's children forcibly separate their parents so they no longer have to live in a world without light. With bravery, fluency and skill, Mat Tait's illustrations draw readers into a tale submerged in darkness. There is fury in the drawing and beauty in the shadows, coupled with bold design and typography



THE LIGHTHOUSE PRINCESS

BY SUSAN WARDELL, ILLUSTRATED BY ROSE NORTHEY
PUBLISHED BY PUFFIN, PENGUIN RANDOM HOUSE

A fisher-boy is rescued by an independent princess when he runs into trouble near her lighthouse. Illustrated with an energy that is thrown into relief by its limited colour palette, thoughtful and witty details encourage readers to join the characters as they ponder life in a tower by the sea. Keep an eye out for the flying chocolate fish!



TE REO MĀORI WRIGHT FAMILY FOUNDATION TE KURA POUNAMU AWARD

A COURAGEOUS JOURNEY,
TIKANGA OF MATARIKI, AND
A WISE TEACHER



HE RARU KI TAI

BY JANE COOPER, ILLUSTRATED BY STORY HEMI-MOREHOUSE
PUBLISHED BY HUIA PUBLISHERS

Set in Tāmaki Makaurau before the arrival of Pākehā, this story follows the journey of Te Kawenga and Kakati, who are faced with a decision that could have major repercussions for them and their people. The author's expertise in te reo Māori is evident through the depth of vocabulary and syntax of the sentences. Tau ana!

KUA WHETŪRANGITIA A KORO

BY BRIANNE TE PAA, ILLUSTRATED BY STORY HEMI-MOREHOUSE
PUBLISHED BY HUIA PUBLISHERS

This beautiful story about a young boy's desire to honour the teachings of his Koro also offers readers the opportunity to learn about tikanga surrounding Matariki. The way in which te reo Māori is used in telling this story will allow readers to understand and connect, no matter what their background is.



TE KŌKŌRANGI: TE ARANGA O MATARIKI

BY WITI IHIMAERA, ILLUSTRATED BY ISOBEL JOY TE AHO-WHITE, TRANSLATED BY HĒNI JACOB
PUBLISHED BY PUFFIN, PENGUIN RANDOM HOUSE

Follow Te Kōkōrangī as she searches for four paruhi or apprentices to pass on her knowledge of Matariki. *Te Kōkōrangī* provides an opportunity for readers of all ages to immerse themselves in a story centred around mātauranga Māori. The level of te reo Māori enhances, validates and enriches the strong ao Māori themes. Ka mutu pea!

Reading makes life better.

Join Aotearoa's community of readers



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ILLUSTRATION RUSSELL CLARK AWARD

THE STORY OF DA VINCI,
EXPRESSIVE YAKS, A PAINTED
MENAGERIE, GODS OF
DARKNESS, AND LIFE
IN A LIGHTHOUSE

BEST FIRST BOOK NZSA AWARD

BEFRIENDING A WHALE,
RIDING HORSES, SAVING
A TANIWHA, 2080
MORAL DILEMMA, AND
LIGHTHOUSE FRIENDS

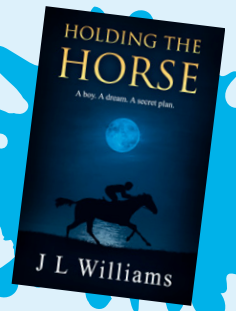


ECHO
BY ARLO KELLY
PUBLISHED BY SPARROW PRESS

Eric is visually impaired and lives a quiet life on a remote East Coast beach. One summer he encounters a whale whom he names Echo, and they develop a friendship that leads to Eric making new plans for the future and increasing his independence. An engaging story with believable characters, by a promising young writer.

HOLDING THE HORSE
BY J L WILLIAMS
PUBLISHED BY OCEAN ECHO BOOKS, CAVE BOOKS

In rural New Zealand just after World War II we meet 14-year-old Sid, who wants to be a jockey. But Dad has come back from the war with PTSD and Mum has to hold the family together. This tightly woven novel deftly depicts family dynamics and tensions as Sid pursues his dream despite many challenges.



HE RARU KI TAI
BY JANE COOPER, ILLUSTRATED BY STORY HEMI-MOREHOUSE
PUBLISHED BY HUIA PUBLISHERS

Cousins Te Kawenga and Kakati challenge their leaders and try to save the taniwha of Hauraki iwi. Referencing mātauranga Māori from iwi who lived in 17th century Tāmaki Makaurau, *He Raru ki Tai* combines authenticity of setting with relatable characters and themes that ground this adventure in te ao Māori, and have universal appeal.

KIDNAP AT MYSTERY ISLAND
BY CAROL GARDEN
PUBLISHED BY SCHOLASTIC NEW ZEALAND

It's 2080 and the world has narrowly avoided climate change devastation, when Dom's father Dezi decides to start seabed mining off the Coromandel. This gripping novel sees into a future in which children are born with superpowers but still face moral dilemmas. For Dom this includes deciding whether to save a kidnapped girl or to protect his family.



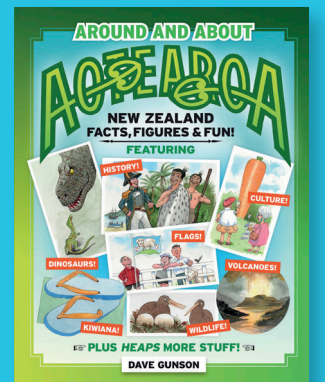
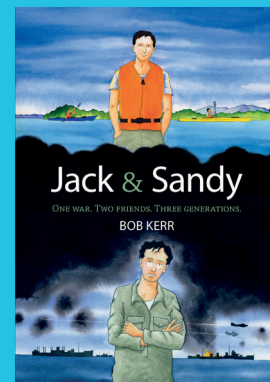
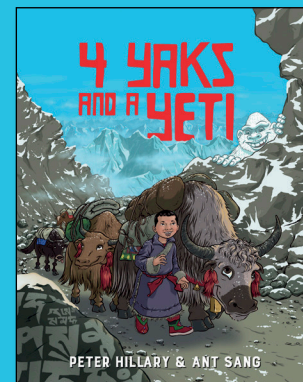
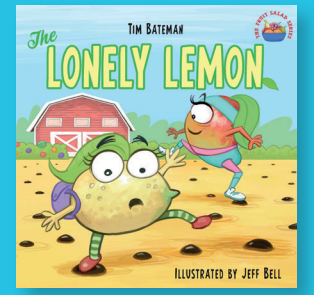
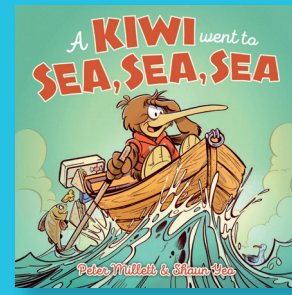
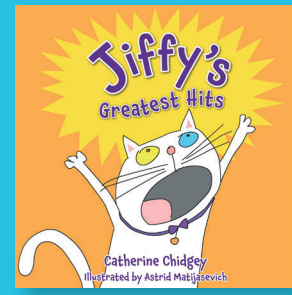
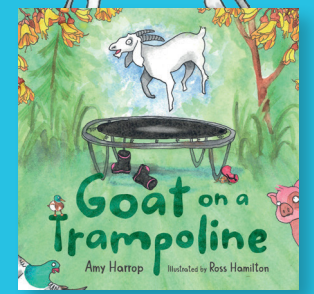
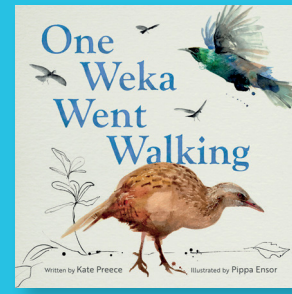
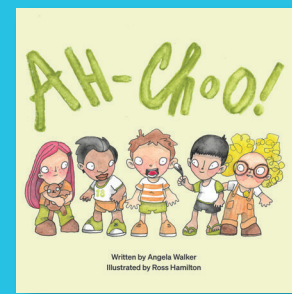
THE LIGHTHOUSE PRINCESS
BY SUSAN WARDELL, ILLUSTRATED BY ROSE NORTHEY
PUBLISHED BY PUFFIN, PENGUIN RANDOM HOUSE

In this empowering tale, a princess who is happy living alone in a lighthouse until she rescues a boy who arrives in a storm, and a friendship begins. This is a book that children will return to again and again, with detailed and lyrical illustrations that offer much to explore and discover.

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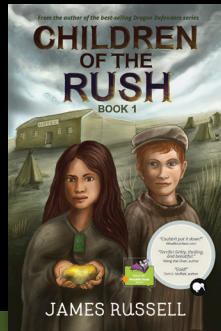


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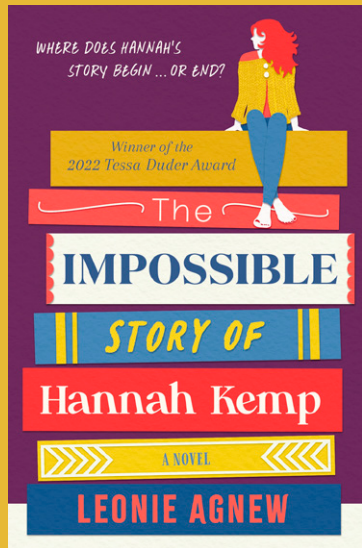
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