

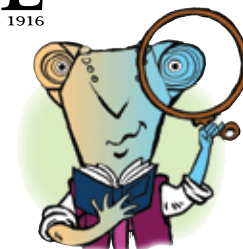
# The SCHOOL MAGAZINE

SINCE 1916



## BOOKSHELF LIST 2009

### Blast Off



- 1 SAVING SWEETNESS** *Written by Diane Stanley and illustrated by G. Brian Karas (Puffin Books) ISBN: 0-399-23645-1*

When Little Sweetness runs away from the orphanage to escape mean Mrs Sump, it's the Sheriff who's sent hiking into the desert to bring her back. But just who has the resourcefulness, common sense and quick thinking to survive the dangers of the Wild West? First-person narration in the twangy dialect of the bumbling Sheriff adds to the gentle irony of this delightful role reversal drama. Mixed media illustrations blend gouache, acrylic, and pencil drawings with cyanotype photographs to make this a very sweet start to the year.

- 2 SNAKE AND LIZARD** *Written by Joy Cowley and illustrated by Gavin Bishop (Gecko Press 2007) ISBN: 978-0-9582787-3-7*

Snake and Lizard are very good friends—but they also argue all the time. These two squabblers can argue about anything: whose got the longest tail, where to spend the day, what to eat, *how* to eat. But Snake and Lizard know that when we argue with friends, we come to know each other a bit better—which usually makes us better friends. From New Zealand comes this charming episodic narrative on the theme of learning to value each other's differences, with delightful cameo illustrations of these two best friends.

- 3 AUNT NANCY AND THE BOTHERSOME VISITORS** *Written by Phyllis Root and illustrated by David Parkins (Walker Books 2008) ISBN: 78-1-4063-1058-0*

Aunt Nancy finds herself with visitors she'd like to say 'good bye' to very quickly! There's Old Man Trouble, Cousin Lazybones, Old Woeful and even Mister Death. But Aunt Nancy is cleverer than all of them, and finds ways to send them all packing in next to no time. Award-winning US writer Phyllis Root uses an American rural dialect that readers will find easy to understand and fun to mimic in this delightful collection of humorous short trickster tales, with silhouette illustrations.

- 4 WABI SABI** *Written by Mark Reibstein and illustrated by Ed Young (Little, Brown and Company 2008) ISBN: 978-0-316-11825-5*

Wabi Sabi is a Japanese cat who wants to know what her name means. "That's hard to explain," she's told by her master, her friend Snowball, Rascal the dog, and a blue wren. So Wabi Sabi sets off in search of the wise old monkey who may be able to tell her. Each page of this beautifully designed large-format picture book combines a short narrative text with a haiku poem, set against stunningly original mixed media illustrations by Ed Young. Final pages explain the history of Wabi Sabi and how the haiku form developed. Wabi Sabi is a complete aesthetic experience, offering sound, sense, visual and intellectual delight.

- 5 THE TINDERBOX** *Written by Hans Christian Andersen, retold by Stephen Mitchell and illustrated by Bagram Ibatoulline (Walker Books 2007) ISBN: 978-1-4063-1364-2*

One of Andersen's most famous tales, this re-telling preserves the extremes of the soldier's rises and falls in fortune, which all begin when a witch sends him in search of a tinderbox that is guarded by three huge dogs. The pen, ink and wash illustrations by Ibatoulline dominate every spread, with their warts-and-all detail and their arresting images of the dogs with eyes as big as dinner plates, clocks and cartwheels. A dramatic way to (re-)introduce students to the genius of Andersen's 19<sup>th</sup> century tales.

- 6 CROW AND THE WATERHOLE** *Written and illustrated by Ambelin Kwaymullina (Fremantle Press 2007) ISBN: 978-1-8636-8303-6*

A CBC notable book and winner of the Chrichton Award, this picture book by Indigenous author and illustrator Kwaymullina tells the story of Crow's search to be braver, kinder, wiser and more faithful than she thinks she is. As Crow searches to be the wonderful crow she sees each time she looks in the waterhole, she finds, to her surprise, that she has changed the world! A delightfully gentle but deep story about identity, with strong illustrations, rich in the colours and shapes of the Australian landscape.

- 7 68 TEETH** *Written by James Moloney and illustrated by Tom Jellet (Penguin Group Australia 2005) ISBN: 978-0-14-330191-2*

It's all action and drama in this our first short novel of the year. When Jack heads off fishing in the river on his family's property, he catches something unexpected: a crocodile! And it's lucky for everyone that Jack tags along when Nils, the tracker, arrives to capture the croc. Crocs don't have 68 teeth for nothing, and it's only Jack's resourcefulness and bravery that gets him and Nils home safely after an unexpected attack. A fast-paced and credible Aussie Chomp that students will find hard to put down.

- 8 MY PLACE** *Written by Nadia Wheatley and illustrated by Donna Rawlins (Walker Books 2008) ISBN: 978-192115065-4*

The 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary edition of this CBC award-winning book continues to combine interest and relevance long after the bicentenary it was produced to celebrate. The innovative format devotes a double-page spread to each decade, working backwards from 1988 to 1788. Each spread is 'spoken' by the different children who inhabited 'my place' across the two centuries. The historical details in the narrations and illustrations make this a fascinating way to introduce young readers to the social history of Australia.

- 9 WHERE I LIVE** *Written by Eileen Spinelli and illustrated by Matt Phelan (Dial Books for Young Readers) ISBN: 978-0-8037-3122-6*

A physically appealing book, *Where I Live* is a free verse novel that follows a young American girl's experiences when her family moves to live near Grandpa in Pittsburgh. Diana, a would-be poet, addresses readers directly through her short poems that are very accessible and effective in capturing the many different emotions of Diana's year. Pencil illustrations by Matt Phelan help keep the light touch and spaciousness that characterise this attractive book.

- 10 JACK PLANK TELLS TALES** *Written and illustrated by Natalie Babbitt (Michael di Capua Books Scholastic 2007) ISBN: 978-0-545-00496-1*

Any new book by American writer Natalie Babbitt, author of the classic *Tuck Everlasting*, is sure to be a rich delight, and *Jack Plank Tells Tales* is precisely that. Each night, out-of-work pirate Jack Plank explains to his landlady, Mrs Delfresno, and her boarders why—despite his best intentions—he can't work as a farmer, baker, fortune teller, fisherman, barber, goldsmith, actor or musician. As Jack's audience (and his readers) become caught up in his tales of life at sea, we gradually realise that Jack is already living his perfect career, as a gifted teller of tall tales. Pencil illustrations support the gentle humour and incredulity of Jack's stories.