

The SCHOOL MAGAZINE

SINCE 1916



BOOKSHELF LIST 2009

Countdown



- 1 SUNDAY CHUTNEY** *Written and illustrated by Aaron Blabey* (Penguin 2008) ISBN: 978 0 670 07179 1

Sunday Chutney's life has been packed with remarkable experiences and hobbies; she's lived all over the world! But does that make it easier to be the 'new kid'? Aaron Blabey's paintings are bursting with humour and quirkiness—a perfect accompaniment to his understated text about the challenges of being a new kid at school. Don't be surprised if this charming and original picture book appears on the CBC list in 2009.

- 2 THE PENCIL** *Written by Alan Ahlberg and illustrated by Bruce Ingman* (Walker 2008) ISBN: 978 1 4063 0962 1

The pencil creates a whole world of people and animals, complete with names and colours. That is, until trouble arrives in the form of a rubber. Bruce Ingman's naïve style of illustration accompanies a text that is accessible and funny and will have children using their pencils in a whole new way. Another delightfully thoughtful book by the celebrated British children's author, Alan Ahlberg, who with his wife created the classics *Each Peach Pear Plum* and *The Jolly Postman*.

- 3 SADIE AND RATZ** *Written by Sonya Hartnett and illustrated by Ann James* (Puffin 2008) ISBN: 978-0-14-330355-8

Hannah's hands, named Sadie and Ratz, are rambunctious personalities and sometimes get Hannah into trouble. Things become more complicated when Hannah's little brother starts blaming Sadie and Ratz for mischief that *his* hands have orchestrated. Evocative drawings by Ann James add to the drama in this original, feisty chapter book by one of Australia's leading writers for children.

- 4 VIOLET THE PILOT** *Written and illustrated by Steve Breen* (Dial Books 2008) ISBN: 978 0 8037 3125 7

Violet is a brilliant inventor who is given a hard time at school. When she's called upon to perform a daring rescue in her homemade aeroplane, she finally receives the appreciation she deserves. This is a book with a strong protagonist, a compelling plot and bold, inventive pictures by an artist who has won the Pulitzer prize for editorial cartooning!

- 5 STICKY BURR: ADVENTURES IN BURRWOOD FOREST** *Written and illustrated by John Lechner* (Candlewick Press 2008) ISBN: 978-0-7636-3567-1

Sticky Bur, who lives in Burrwood Forest, is a Burr with great potential. He has exciting and amusing adventures with his friends. The comic-book format offers plenty of appeal to reluctant readers, but the strong story has solid literary merit as well. Overall, a perfect combination to explore the demands of visual literacy by the multi-talented American artist, designer, puppeteer and animator, John Lechner.

- 6 THE TWO-HEARTED NUMBAT** *Written and illustrated by Ambelin and Ezekiel Kwaymullina* (Fremantle Press 2008) ISBN: 978 1 9213 6123 4

Poor Numbat hates having two hearts, one of stone and one of feather. They make him behave in different ways. He does, however, have some interesting adventures as he struggles to make resolve his conflict with the hearts. Vibrant paintings capture the drama of this tale retold by an artist and writer team from the Bailgu and Nyamal peoples of the Pilbara region of Western Australia.

- 7 LEAF** *Written and illustrated by Stephen Michael King* (Scholastic 2008) ISBN: 978 1 7416 9116 0

In this wordless text, Australian author and illustrator Stephen Michael King offers whimsical pictures with a strong emotional impact and no hint of didacticism. The text is subtitled, 'Ideas, sounds and pictures' and offers plenty to explore in terms of visual literacy. The main character is resourceful, sensitive and cheerful and the book addresses the connections children have with the natural world.

- 8 THE MAGIC PILLOW** *Written and illustrated by Demi* (McElderry/Simon and Schuster 2008) ISBN: 1 4169 2470 1

Exquisite and sophisticated paintings illustrate this retelling of a Chinese short story, originally by Shen Jiji from the Tang Dynasty (700 CE). This tale of the poor boy Ping gently and effectively reminds readers that the key to true happiness may lie in unexpected places. The text includes endnotes about the derivation of the story.

- 9 THE NIGHT WE MADE THE FLAG: A EUREKA STORY** *Written by Carole Wilkinson and illustrated by Sebastian Ciffaglione* (Black Dog Books 2008) ISBN: 978 174203007 4

The creation of the Eureka flag is told through the eyes of Mary, a young girl whose mother is one of three women secretly sewing the flag. There is tension as the women race to finish the flag by morning, and also sadness, as Mary is called upon to sacrifice something special so that the flag can be completed. Atmospheric paintings and informative endnotes enhance this picture book about a significant cultural event in Australia's history.

- 10 THE LION DRUMMER** *Written by Gabrielle Wang and illustrated by Andrew McLean* (Puffin 2008) ISBN: 978 014 330313 8

Lulu has always felt the rhythms of life in her body and soul and she simply longs to be the lion drummer at the special Chinatown celebrations. As this short chapter book makes its way through tense moments to a satisfying conclusion, it also celebrates the contributions of Asian Australians. Simple yet evocative drawings help extend the text.