



# The SCHOOL MAGAZINE

SINCE 1916

## BOOKSHELF LIST 2009

### Touchdown



#### 1 THE NAME OF THIS BOOK IS SECRET

Written by Pseudonymous Bosch (Allen & Unwin 2007)  
ISBN: 978-1-74175-431-5

Narrated by the humorous and mysterious Pseudonymous Bosch, this is the adventurous story of Cass and Max-Ernest—two social misfits who find their quirky qualities surprisingly complementary when they team up to solve a mystery involving crime, magic, codes, puzzles, word games—and of course—secrets. An action-packed book that is sure to intrigue even the most reluctant reader.

#### 2 THE FAMOUS FIVE'S SURVIVAL GUIDE

Based on *The Famous Five* books by Enid Blyton (Hodder 2008)  
ISBN: 978-0-340-97083-6

A big book packed with survival tips, based on Enid Blyton's *Famous Five* books and including a new mystery that the Famous Five never managed to solve. Filled with maps, diagrams, photos and handy tips to help readers survive any situation, including how to make fire, how to read a compass, how to perform the Heimlich Manoeuvre, how to find your way by the stars and First Aid advice. Fun and informative.

#### 3 MY SECRET WAR DIARY

Written and illustrated by Marcia Williams (Walker Books 2008) ISBN: 978-1-4063-0940-9

A follow-up to *Archie's War*, Marcia Williams's World War I diary, this time the diary is written by Archie Albright's young daughter, Flossie, and is set during the years of World War II. Flossie is a spirited, brave girl, living in the English countryside with her uncle and little brother. Her diary details the war years from the outset to the final conclusion. Beautifully (hand)written and illustrated, it is filled with humour, sadness, tragedy, the uncertain turbulence and the strong spirit that characterised these years.

#### 4 HOW NEARLY EVERYTHING WAS INVENTED by the Brainwaves

Written by Jilly MacLeod and illustrated by Lisa Swerling and Ralph Lazaar (Dorling Kindersley 2006)  
ISBN: 978-1-4053-329-2

A colourful, instructive, information-packed nonfiction book that looks at the history of inventions, how they came to be, and their role in modern society. Guided by a group of cartoon characters called The Brainwaves, the reader explores the who, what, where, when and how of key inventions in an accessible, fun and dynamic way.

#### 5 RHYMING BOY

Written by Steven Herrick (UQP 2008)  
ISBN: 978-0-7022-3673-0

Award-winning poet Steven Herrick's first prose novel tells of Jayden Hayden (aka Rhyming Boy) and his search for the father he has never known. Deftly written, the novel deals with friendship and the search for identity. As with much of Herrick's work, this funny, poignant and appealing quest story also celebrates the richness of language.

#### 6 US MOB WALAWURRU

Written by David Spillman and Lisa Wilyuka (Magabala Books 2006) ISBN: 1-875641-87-4

Set in the 1960s in an Aboriginal community in Central Australia, the story is told through the eyes of Ruby—a young Liritja girl who attends the new 'silver bullet' school. It's here that Ruby's close relationship with her family and her non-Aboriginal school teacher, Mr Duncan, provokes questions about the difference between 'whitefella' and Aboriginal culture. Ruby experiences an awakening as she seeks to understand why the two cultures are so at odds with one another. Raising issues of culture, ownership and reconciliation, this book provides valuable historical insights, while also exploring Indigenous issues that are still pertinent today.

#### 7 THE WORD SPY

Written by Ursula Dubosarsky (Penguin 2008)  
ISBN: 978-0-6700-7227-9

A witty, entertaining journey through the English language, *The Word Spy* had its genesis in the pages of *The School Magazine*. Ursula Dubosarsky tells us much about words and phrases and their idiosyncrasies and quirks. Covering such topics as palindromes, mondegreens, Pig Latin, and more, this is a delightful and interesting insight into the words we use.

#### 8 MAHTAB'S STORY

Written by Libby Gleeson (Allen & Unwin 2008) ISBN: 987-1-74175-334-9

Inspired by a true story, *Mahtab's Story* captures the anxious voyage of young girl fleeing Afghanistan with her family in search of freedom, safety and hope in Australia. A compelling realist story that is powerfully and beautifully written by an award-winning Australian children's author.

#### 9 100 CUPBOARDS

Written by N.D. Wilson (Random House 2008) ISBN: 978-1-74166-323-5

Cousins Henry and Henrietta discover 99 cupboard doors hidden behind the walls of the attic of their old family farmhouse. When these cupboards are found to be portals into other worlds, secrets are unlocked and mystery brews, leading Henry and Henrietta into a fantastical adventure. The novel offers interesting and complex characters, an unusual, eerie setting and an alluring and suspenseful plot that is both complex and accessible.

#### 10 THE AMAZING MIND OF ALICE MEAKIN

Written by Alan Shea (Chicken House 2008) ISBN: 978-1-904442-32-5

Set in London about ten years after World War II, Alice is a clever girl who loves writing and making up stories. Sometimes she uses these stories to escape the difficult world in which she lives—an abusive step-father, a withdrawn mother, financial deprivation and run-down accommodation in a bombed out urban slum. But when a new boy comes to live in her building, she finds that the fine line between reality and fantasy starts to blur, and that the war that still haunts the physical surroundings of Alice's life reveals special meanings for her own identity. An engrossing tale, full of surprises and a compelling sort of magic.