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Picture Books by Aboriginal Authors and Illustrators



The following list of picture books has been compiled due to their development by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. In many cases, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are both the writers and illustrators as in publications by [Magabala Books](#), Australia's leading Indigenous publishing house. In addition, other books have been developed in partnership with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

When using these books in the classroom it must be acknowledged that there is great diversity within and between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities with each text representing a specific context. Themes can be explored within students' local contexts by considering places of significance and local language/s of the area. Many of the texts contain language of a particular Country. These have been marked by *. The context and language can be investigated with students by

researching the author and illustrator and locating on the [AIATSIS Map of Indigenous Australia](#) which represents the language, social or nation groups of Aboriginal Australia. Languages can be further explored at [Languages Alive \(AIATSIS\)](#).

In the Australian Curriculum, The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Histories and Cultures priority uses a conceptual framework to provide a context for learning. 'The framework comprises the underlying elements of Identity and Living Communities and the key concepts of Country/Place, Culture and People.' ([Version 8.4, Australian Curriculum](#)).

To support choosing from the texts below, they have been broadly grouped based on the key concepts of Country/Place, Culture and People. This is not to say that the books only fit into one of these categories. Detail around these concepts can be found by reading about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Histories and Cultures ([Version 8.4, Australian Curriculum](#)).

Educators will also find information from Magabala Books on [Teaching Indigenous Content](#) useful as guiding principles for using the books in classrooms. In addition, the [AIATSIS Guide to evaluating and selecting education resources](#) provides excellent advice on selecting texts and resources and core questions for evaluating resources.



Country/Place

Appreciation of Country/Place

*[Open Your Heart to Country](#) by Jasmine Seymour (2022, Magabala Books)

[Coming Home to Country](#) by Bronwyn Bancroft (2020, Magabala Books)

[Colours of Australia](#) by Bronwyn Bancroft (2018, Hardie Grant Children's Publishing)

[Patterns of Australia](#) by Bronwyn Bancroft (2018, Hardie Grant Children's Publishing)

[Shapes of Australia](#) by Bronwyn Bancroft (2018, Hardie Grant Children's Publishing)

[Why I Love Australia](#) by Bronwyn Bancroft (2016, Hardie Grant Children's Publishing)

*[Yakanarra Songbook: About Our Place in Walmajarri and English](#) by Jessie Wamarla Moora, Mary Purnjurr Vanbee, Chris Aitken, Jessie Wamarla Moora and Mary Purnjurr Vanbee, Alison Lester (2017, Pan Macmillan)

[My Country](#) by Ezekiel Kwaymullina and Sally Morgan (2011, Freemantle Press)

[The Outback](#) by Annaliese Porter and Bronwyn Bancroft (2008, Magabala Books)

Connection to the land, sea, sky and waterways

[Looking after Country with Fire: Aboriginal Burning Knowledge with Uncle Kuu](#) by Victor and Sandra Steffensen (2022, Hardie Grant Explore)

[Thank you Rain!](#) by Sally Morgan and Johnny Warrkatja Malibirr (2022, Magabala Books)

[The River](#) by Sally Morgan and Johnny Warrkatja Malibirr (2021, Magabala Books)

*[Cooee Mittigar: A Story on Darug Songlines](#) by Jasmine Seymour (2019, Magabala Books)

[Wilam: A Birrarung Story](#) Wilam: A Birrarung Story by Andrew Kelly, Aunty Joy Murphy and Lisa Kennedy (2019, Walker Books)

[Welcome to Country](#) by Aunty Joy Murphy and Lisa Kennedy (2017, Walker Books)

[Summer Rain](#) by Ros Moriarty and Balarinji (2015, Allen & Unwin)

[Big Rain Coming](#) by Katrina Germein and Bronwyn Bancroft (2002, Penguin)



Animals

[Go Home Cheeky Animals!](#) by Johanna Bell and Dion Beasley (2022, Allen & Unwin)

[Little Bird's Day](#) by Sally Morgan and Johnny Warrkatja Malibirr (2019, Magabala Books)

*[Clever Crow](#) by Nina Lawrence and Bronwyn Bancroft (2018, Magabala)

[ABC of Australian Animals](#) by Bronwyn Bancroft (2018, Hardie Grant Children's Publishing)

[123 of Australian Animals](#) by Bronwyn Bancroft (2018, Hardie Grant Children's Publishing)

[We all Sleep](#) by Ezekiel Kwaymullina and Sally Morgan (2017, Fremantle Press)



Culture

Identity

[Hello and Welcome](#) by Gregg Dreise (2021, Penguin)

[My Culture and Me](#) by Gregg Dreise (2019, Penguin)

*[Baby Business](#) by Jasmine Seymour (2020, Magabala Books)

*[Our Little Yuin](#) by Children of Little Yuin Aboriginal Preschool (2018, Shooting Star)

[Colour Me](#) by Ezekiel Kwaymullina and Moira Court (2017, Fremantle Press)

[I Love Me](#) by Sally Morgan and Ambelin Kwaymullina (2016, Fremantle Press)

[Shake A Leg](#) by Boori Monty Prior and Jan Ormerod (2010, Allen & Unwin)

Traditional Stories Retold

- *[Our Dreaming](#) by Kirli Saunders and Dub Leffler (2022, Scholastic)
- *[The Dunggjiirr Brothers and the Caring Song of the Whale](#) by Aunty Shaa Smith with Yandaarra (2022, Allen & Unwin)
- *[Milbi: Aboriginal stories from Queensland's Endeavour River](#) by Tulo Gordon, John Haviland (Ed) (2021, Aboriginal Studies Press)
- *[The Mark of the Wagarl](#) by Lorna Little and Janice Lyndon (2012, Magabala Books)
- [The Seven Sisters](#) by Reggie Sultan (2012, Red Kangaroo Books)
- *[Mamang: Wirlomin Noongar Language and Stories Project](#) by Kim Scott, Iris Woods, Jeffrey Farmer and Helen Nelly (2011, UWA Publishing)
- [The Legend of the Seven Sisters: A Traditional Aboriginal Story from Western Australia](#) by May L. O'Brien and Sue Wyatt (2009, Aboriginal Studies Press)

Contemporary responses to the historic impacts of colonisation

- [Somebody's Land: Welcome to our Country](#) by Adam Goodes, Ellie Laing and David Hardy (2021, Allen & Unwin)
- [Freedom Day – Vincent Lingjari and the story of the Wave Hill walk-off](#) by Rosie Smiler, Thomas Mayor and Samantha Campbell (2021, Hardie Grant)
- [Kunyi](#) by Kunyi June Anne McInerney (2021, Magabala Books)
- [Our Home, Our Heartbeat](#) by Adam Briggs, Kate Moon and Rachael Sarra (2020, Hardie Grant Children's Publishing)
- [Finding our heart: A Story about the Uluru Statement for Young Australians](#) by Thomas Mayor Blak Douglas (2020, Hardie Grant Explore)
- [Found](#) by Bruce Pascoe and Charmaine Ledden-Lewis (2020, Magabala Books)
- [Took the Children Away](#) by Archie Roach and Ruby Hunter (2020, Simon & Schuster)
- [Young Dark Emu](#) by Bruce Pascoe (2019, Magabala Books)
- [Say Yes: A story of friendship, fairness and a vote for hope](#) by Jennifer Castles and Paul Seden (2017, Allen & Unwin)
- [Stolen Girl](#) by Trina Saffioti and Norma MacDonald (2011, Magabala Books)

War / Anzac Day

[Charlie's Swim](#) by Edith Wright and Charmaine Ledden-Lewis (2022, Magabala Books)

[Alfred's War](#) by Rachel bin Salleh and Samantha Fry (2018, Magabala Books)

Traditional knowledge in the modern world

[Come Together](#) by Isaiah Firebrace and Jaelyn Biunaiwai (2022, Hardie Grant)

[The First Scientists: Deadly Inventions and Innovations from Australia's First Peoples](#) by Corey Tutt and Blak Douglas (2021, Hardie Grant)

People

Communities, Families and Relationships

[Going to the Footy](#) by Debbie Coombes (2019, Magabala Books)

[Once there was a Boy](#) by Dub Leffler (2011, Magabala Books)

[I Remember](#) by Joanne Crawford and Kerry Anne Jordinson (2019, Magabala Books)

[Family](#) by Aunty Fay Muir, Sue Lawson and Jasmine Seymour (2020, Magabala Books)

[The Lost Girl](#) by Ambelin Kwaymullina (2014, Walker Books)

*[The Naked Boy and the Crocodile Stories by Children from Remote Indigenous Communities](#) edited by Andy Griffiths (2011, Pan Macmillan)

*[No Way Yirrikipayi!](#) by children from Milikapiti School, Melville Island with Alison Lester (2015, Pan Macmillan)



Autobiographical / Biographical

[Albert Namatjira](#) by Vincent Namatjira (2021, Magabala Books)

[Heroes, Rebels and Innovators: Inspiring Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People from History](#) by Karen Wyld and Jaelyn Biunmaiwai (2021, Hachette)

[Sea Country](#) by Aunty Patsy Cameron and Lisa Kennedy (2021, Magabala Books)

*[Shirley Purdie: My Story, Ngaginybe Jarragbe](#) by Shirley Purdie (2020, Magabala Books)

[Remembering Lionsville](#) by Bronwyn Bancroft (2016, Allen & Unwin)

[As I Grew Older](#) by Ian Abdulla (2014, HarperCollins)

[When I was Little, Like You](#) by Mary Malbunka (2005, Allen & Unwin)

[The Shack that Dad Built](#) by Elaine Russell (2005, Little Hare Books)

[A is for Aunty](#) by Elaine Russell (2001, HarperCollins)

