

2025 CBCA Book of the Year Winners

Book of the Year: Older Readers

Entries in this category may be fiction, drama or poetry and should be appropriate in style and content for readers in their secondary years of schooling. Ages 13–18 years.

WINNER			
Title	Author	Publisher	ISBN
I'm Not Really Here	Gary Lonesborough	A&U Books for Children and Young Adults	9781761180767
HONOUR			
Title	Author	Publisher	ISBN
Birdy	Sharon Kernot	Text Publishing	9781922790606
Into the Mouth of the Wolf	Erin Gough	Hardie Grant Children's Publishing	9781760507558
SHADOW JUDGING WINNER			
Title	Author	Publisher	ISBN
Birdy	Sharon Kernot	Text Publishing	9781922790606

Book of the Year: Younger Readers

Entries in this category may be fiction, drama or poetry and should be appropriate in style and content for readers from the middle to upper primary years. 7–12 years.

WINNER				
Title	Author	Illustrator	Publisher	ISBN
Laughter is the Best Ending	Maryam Master	Astred Hicks	Pan Australia	9781761560132
HONOUR				
Title	Author	Illustrator	Publisher	ISBN
Aggie Flea Steals the Show	Tania Ingram	Anne Yi	Scholastic Australia	9781760976309
Fluff: Mess Up!	Matt Stanton	Matt Stanton	ABC Books	9780733342110
SHADOW JUDGING WINNER				
Title	Author	Illustrator	Publisher	ISBN
Laughter is the Best Ending	Maryam Master	Astred Hicks	Pan Australia	9781761560132

Book of the Year: Early Childhood

Entries in this category may be fiction, drama or poetry and should be appropriate in style and content for children who are at pre-reading or early stages of reading. Ages 0–6 years.

WINNER				
Title	Author	Illustrator	Publisher	ISBN
The Wobbly Bike	Darren McCallum	Craig Smith	Walker Books Australia	9781760656416
HONOUR				
Title	Author	Illustrator	Publisher	ISBN
How to Move a Zoo	Kate Simpson	Owen Swan	A&U Books for Children and Young Adults	9781761180309
One Little Dung Beetle	Rhian Williams	Heather Potter & Mark Jackson	Wild Dog Books	9781742036656
SHADOW JUDGING WINNER				
Title	Author	Illustrator	Publisher	ISBN
Spiro	Anna McGregor	Anna McGregor	Scribble	9781761381010

Picture Book of the Year

Entries in this category should be outstanding books of the Picture Book genre in which the author and illustrator achieve artistic and literary unity or, in wordless picture books, where the story, theme or concept is unified through illustrations. Ages 0–18 years.

WINNER				
Title	Illustrator	Author	Publisher	ISBN
The Truck Cat	Danny Snell	Deborah Frenkel	Bright Light	9781761212291
HONOUR				
Title	Illustrator	Author	Publisher	ISBN
Afloat	Freya Blackwood	Kirli Saunders	Little Hare	9781760505899
These Long-Loved Things	Ronojoy Ghosh	Josh Pyke	Scholastic Australia	978-1761293849
SHADOW JUDGING WINNER				
Title	Illustrator	Author	Publisher	ISBN
The Truck Cat	Danny Snell	Deborah Frenkel	Bright Light	9781761212291

Eve Pownall Award

Entries in this category should be books that have the prime intention of documenting factual material with consideration given to imaginative presentation, interpretation and variation of style. Ages 0–18 years.

WINNER				
Title	Author	Illustrator	Publisher	ISBN
Always Was, Always Will Be	Aunty Fay Muir & Sue Lawson		Magabala Books	9781922777614
HONOUR				
Title	Author	Illustrator	Publisher	ISBN
Making the Shrine: Stories From Victoria's War Memorial	Laura J Carroll	Laura J Carroll	The Crossley Press	9781763515604
South With the Seabirds	Jess McGeachin	Jess McGeachin	A&U Books for Children and Young Adults	9781761068645
SHADOW JUDGING JOINT WINNER				
Title	Author	Illustrator	Publisher	ISBN
Flora: Australia's Most Curious Plants	Tania McCartney	Tania McCartney	NLA Publishing	9781922507716
South With the Seabirds	Jess McGeachin	Jess McGeachin	A&U Books for Children and Young Adults	9781761068645

Award for New Illustrator

This Award aims to recognise and encourage new talent in the field of Australian children's book illustration.

Ages 0–18 years

WINNER			
Title	Illustrator	Publisher	ISBN
Grow Big, Little Seed	Sarah Capon	Bright Light	9781761212963