



# Story Time Anytime

10 minutes a day is all it takes to make a difference



500  
Great  
Australian  
Picture Books  
to share with  
children

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The **Story Time Anytime** project has been created by Wodonga Council to support families in their role of providing children with the best start for learning. It promotes '10 minutes a day' spent sharing stories and building a love of literacy through reading, talking, singing and dancing, drawing, and playing together. We suggest simple ways to nurture a love of language and books, and encourage each child to become an active learner.

Reading books is a great way to spend time with your child and to ensure your child's success in reading at school. You will be amazed to see how quickly your child begins to enjoy the language and the stories, to start telling the story with you as you read, and to tell their stories to you.

The picture books suggested in this booklet are suitable for all ages to enjoy. These books allow you and your child to step into imaginary worlds, or read about the amazing realm of reality through pictures and stories. All these books are by Australian authors and illustrators, and can be found in your local bookshop or library.

A good picture story book is a joy forever and a delight to the eye, the ear and the understanding of children and adults alike. We hope this booklet helps to start you on the journey of sharing wonderful Australian picture books with your family.

Many of the authors and illustrators featured have written other books, which should also be available locally. There are also many excellent books by other authors from Australia and overseas. Ask for guidance from your local librarian, or find other suggestions on council's website at [www.wodonga.vic.gov.au](http://www.wodonga.vic.gov.au)

## Why Story Time Anytime is an important time?

- Listening to stories assists in early literacy development.
- Storytelling builds bonds between children and their parents and extended family.
- Literacy begins at home and is most critical in the first five years of life.
- Stories are a natural way to teach children about their world.
- Daily story time provides children with a good start for school.
- Stories and reading aloud allows both you and your child to enjoy the sound and rhythm of language, the taste of words and the way words join together to create the magic of stories.
- Stories help to grow children's vocabulary, so they can communicate with you and others.
- It sets children on the road to becoming life-long readers.

## Story Time Anytime initiatives conducted by Wodonga Council

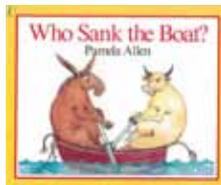
- **Let's Read package** - can be collected from your maternal and child health nurse at key stage visits. Packs include a picture book, DVD and tip sheets for parents and carers.
- **Neighbourhood storytelling** - join in the fun of stories, singing and rhyme play with your children in your local neighbourhood.
- Participate in literacy events within the community such as **Children's Fair**, **Book Week** and **Todos Arte**.
- **A Book Under Every Tree** – pre-loved and new books delivered to Wodonga families at Christmas.
- **November Is News'vember** – encouraging the reading of newspapers by primary age children.
- **Storytelling at Wodonga Library** – Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays.

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Allen, Pamela

**WHO SANK THE BOAT?** (Penguin)

One by one, a cow, a donkey, a sheep, and a little mouse climb aboard a boat to go for a row in the bay. Just who did sink the boat? Pamela Allen has produced 39 picture books and won many prestigious awards.

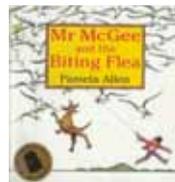


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Allen, Pamela

**MR MCGEE AND THE BITING FLEE** (Viking)

'Mr McGee went out to play, down to the beach one windy day,' the story begins. His happy mood is spoilt when he is bitten by a flea, a flea that he can't get rid of. The only solution is to take off all his clothes and jump into the sea because of course, fleas don't like the sea. The pictures tell the story as well as the text.

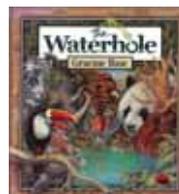


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Base, Graeme

**THE WATERHOLE** (Harry N. Abrams Inc)

The Waterhole is an ingenious fusion of a counting book, puzzle book, storybook and art book. It is an exhilarating journey of discovery, from the plains of Africa and the jungles of the Amazon to the woodlands of North America and the deserts of outback Australia.



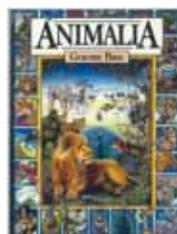
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Base, Graeme

**ANIMALIA**

(Harry N. Abrams Inc)

Within the pages of this book you may discover, if you look beyond the spell of written words, a hidden land of beasts and birds. For many things are 'of a kind,' and those with the keenest eyes will find a thousand things, or maybe more. It's up to you to keep score.



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Baillie, Allan

Illustrated by Jane Turner

**DRAC AND THE GREMLIN** (Puffin)

Drac, the warrior queen, is in terrible danger. And it's up to the Gremlin of the groaning Grotto to help. This is a great example of what children's imaginations can do.





**Baker, Jeannie**

**WINDOW** (Greenwillow Books)

A wordless picture book exploring the concept of exponential change. A mother and a baby look through a window at a view of wilderness and sky as far as they can see. As Sam, the baby, grows, the view changes.

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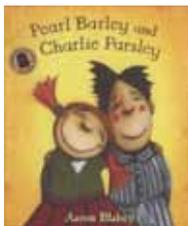
**Baker, Jeannie**

**WHERE THE FOREST MEETS THE SEA** (Perma-Bound Books)

'My father says there has been a rainforest here for over a hundred million years'.

A boy and his father travel in their boat, 'Time Machine', to a stretch of beach beside a primordial tropical rainforest. As the boy walks among the trees, he imagines the forest as it might have been in the past.

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**Blabey, Aaron**

**PEARL BARLEY AND CHARLIE PARSLEY**

Pearl Barley and Charlie Parsley are the best of friends but they are different in almost every way. Pearl loves solving mysteries and moves rather fast in the world. Charlie likes taking baths and watching his garden grow. A delightful tale about self-belief, courage and the power of friendship. Winner of the 2008 Children's Book Council award.

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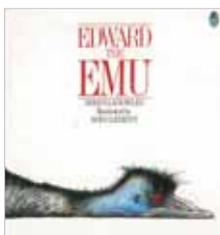
**Carroll, Jessica**

Illustrated by Craig Smith

**BILLY THE PUNK** (Random House)

Billy decides that he needs to look different. Very different. He copies the look of a group of punks he sees in the street. Billy thinks he looks great.

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**Clement, Rod and Knowles, Sheena**

**EDWARD THE EMU** (Harper Collins)

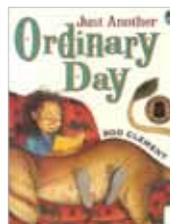
Edward, the emu, was sick of the zoo, there was nowhere to go and there was nothing to do. Follow Edward as he visits the other animals at the zoo looking for something more interesting.

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**Clement, Rod**  
**JUST ANOTHER ORDINARY DAY** (Harper Collins)

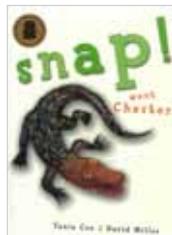
It is the beginning of just another ordinary day, as the first rays of sunlight slide under Amanda's door. But this is no ordinary day – lions, fire-fighters, giant eggs, feasts and magic frogs await Amanda today. A feast for every child's imagination.



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**Cox, Tania**  
Illustrated by David Miller  
**SNAP WENT CHESTER** (Hodder Headline)

Chester, the crocodile, entertains himself by snapping at all the animals that come to the waterhole until something snaps back at him. Full-page illustrations created from paper sculptures that have interesting textures and colours, enhance the amusing text.



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**Crew, Gary**  
Illustrated by Steven Woolman  
**THE WATER TOWER** (Era Publications)

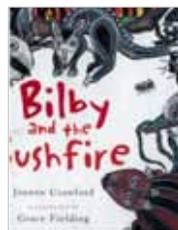
An award-winning story about a water tower, with rusting iron legs and an egg-shaped tank warped and leaking. No one knows its history, but it has been standing there for a long time. Suitable for older children.



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**Crawford, Joanne**  
Illustrated by Grace Fielding  
**BILBY AND THE BUSHFIRE** (Magabala Books)

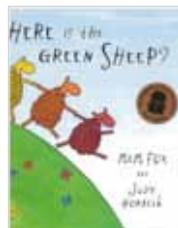
When a bushfire races across the lands of the outback animal friends, emu, kangaroo, wombat and bilby all have different ways of finding shelter from the fire and escape its devastation. Beautiful illustrations in the traditional Aboriginal style.

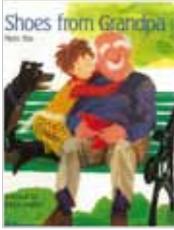


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**Fox, Mem**  
Illustrated by Judy Horacek  
**WHERE IS THE GREEN SHEEP?** (Chrysalis Children's Books)

Here is the blue sheep, and here is the red sheep. Here is the bath sheep, and here is the bed sheep. But where is the green sheep?

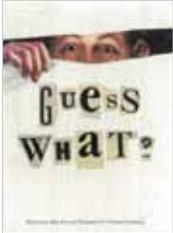




**Fox, Mem**  
Illustrated by Patricia Mullins  
**SHOES FROM GRANDPA** (Scholastic)

One summer, Jessie's father invited all the family over for a barbecue. When grandpa saw Jessie he said, "My, how you've grown! You'll need a new pair of shoes this winter and I'll buy them". The rest of Jessie's family buy her other pieces of clothing, but what does she really want?

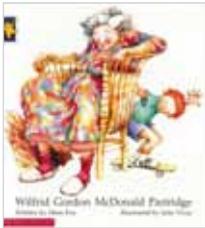
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**Fox, Mem**  
Illustrated by Vivienne Goodman  
**GUESS WHAT?** (Harcourt Brace Jovanovich)

Who is that crazy old lady called Daisy O'Grady? Why does she dress all in black? And what is she going to do with those rats' tails, toenails and dead lizards' scales in her pantry? You'll just have to guess.

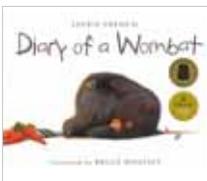
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**Fox, Mem**  
Illustrated by Julie Vivas  
**WILFRED GORDAN MCDONALD PARTRIDGE**  
(Kane/Miller Book Publishers)

'There was once a small boy called Wilfrid Gordon McDonald Partridge and what's more he wasn't very old, either. His house was next door to an old people's home and he knew all the people who lived there...'

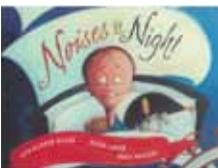
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**French, Jackie**  
Illustrated by Bruce Whatley  
**DIARY OF A WOMBAT** (Harper Collins)

She sleeps. She eats. She scratches. She is training humans to become better pets. She is Mothball, a wombat with attitude. Award-winning author Jackie French's love of wombats comes alive in this cheeky observation of Mothball's life, while Bruce Whatley's captivating illustrations show just how entertaining and endearing wombats are.

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**Glass, Beth R. and Lubner, Susan**  
Illustrated by Bruce Whatley  
**NOISES AT NIGHT** (Harry N. Abrams Inc)

A wide-awake boy decides that nocturnal sounds are actually invitations to play. That dripping faucet? A pirate ship at sea. The hissing radiator? A snake charmed to sleep. Who knows what the mysterious sounds you hear after bedtime could be.

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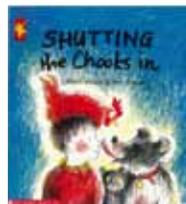
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**Gleeson, Libby**

Illustrated by Ann James

**SHUTTING IN THE CHOOKS** (Scholastic)

Night is approaching and it is time for the chooks to be penned. But one is missing. Will the boy be able to find it and then return home before dark?



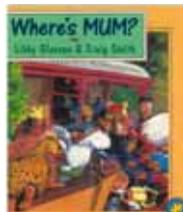
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**Gleeson, Libby**

Illustrated by Craig Smith

**WHERE'S MUM** (Omnibus Books)

When dad picks up Annie, Jess and baby Jack from kindergarten, they wonder what could have happened to mum on the way home. Their fantasy takes in their world of nursery rhymes and fairytales.

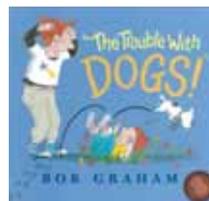


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**Graham, Bob**

**THE TROUBLE WITH DOGS** (Walker Books)

Brought home from the rescue centre eight months ago, Dave is small and sparky and gets all excited. To Kate, he's everything a dog could be. The trouble is, sometimes he gets too excited...but will the man from the Pup Breakers have the answers?

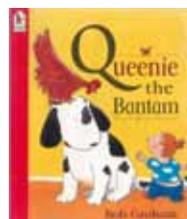


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**Graham, Bob**

**QUEENIE THE BANTAM** (Walker Books)

This totally engaging story about a family who rescue a bantam from the lake is a careful interweaving of picture and text. Queenie takes over the dog's basket, becoming a member of the family. When the family try to return her to her home at the farm she has other ideas.

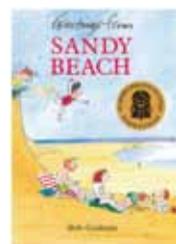


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**Graham, Bob**

**GREETINGS FROM SANDY BEACH** (Lothian)

A family's weekend camping holiday is off to a bad start when dad can't get the tent up, but the members of a bikie gang, come to his rescue. The peace of the beach is shattered by the arrival of a school party, but the narrator soon finds a friend to play with. Capturing the essence of a holiday at the beach, this amusing story has become a modern classic.

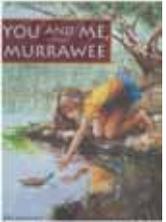




**Graham, Amanda**  
Illustrated by Donna Gynell  
**ARTHUR** (Era)

Read along with the adventures of Arthur the dog who just wants someone to love him, somewhere to live and a pair of old slippers to chew.

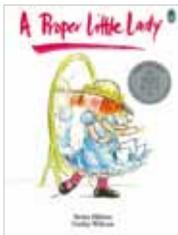
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**Hashmi, Kerri**  
Illustrated by Felicity Marshall  
**YOU AND ME, MURRAWEE** (Viking)

In this beautifully illustrated picture book, we see through the eyes of a young girl camping on the river with her family, life as it would have been two hundred years before. 'Murrawee' means 'elder sister' in the language of the Ngarrindjeri people from the Murray River in South Australia.

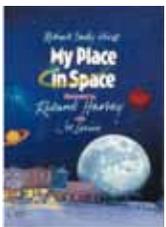
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**Hilton, Nette**  
Illustrated by Cathy Wilcox  
**A PROPER LITTLE LADY** (Collins)

A wonderful story of how a little girl gets dressed up in her best clothes, but when she goes out to play, she can not help being her tomboy self, and the clothes come off worse for wear.

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**Hirst, Robyn and Sally**  
Illustrated by Roland Harvey and Joe Levine  
**MY PLACE IN SPACE** (Collins)

To the astonishment of the bus driver, Henry and Rosie are able to give their complete address, right down to their hemisphere, their planet, their solar system and beyond. My Place In Space is the perfect way to introduce children to the wonders of astronomy.

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**Honey, Elizabeth**  
**NOT A NIBBLE!** (Little Ark/Allen and Unwin)

Holidays at the beach mean camping, swimming, finding crabs, feeding the seagulls, walking, reading and other fun activities. Everyone has plans for things to do. Susie wants to catch a fish, but some people just aren't lucky at fishing. What she is lucky at is something quite unexpected and wonderful. Winner of Picture Book of the Year 1997.

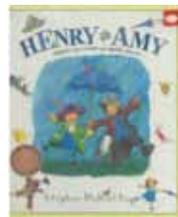
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King, Stephen Michael

**HENRY AND AMY (RIGHT-WAY-ROUND AND UPSIDE DOWN)** (Scholastic)

Henry is a young boy out of step with his surroundings and happy to be so. Amy arrives and brings order into Henry's world and he thinks she is amazing. Deep down Amy wished she wasn't so perfect, so Henry takes her under his wing and shows her the joy of doing the unusual.

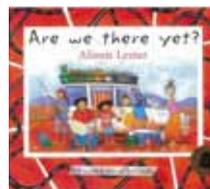


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Lester, Alison

**ARE WE THERE YET?** (Penguin/Viking)

'The year I turned eight, mum and dad took us on a trip around Australia. Luke, Billy and I missed school for the whole winter term'. Join Grace and her family on their adventurous and sometimes funny expedition. A warm, heartfelt story based on an actual journey undertaken by the much-loved, award-winning author and illustrator, Alison Lester.

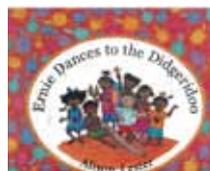


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Lester, Alison

**ERNIE DANCES TO THE DIDGERIDOO** (HodderHeadline)

A simple but vibrant introduction to Aboriginal life and the tropical seasons in the north of Australia. The book shows the activities that Ernie and his six Aboriginal friends like to do best during the very different seasons of the year. Written after Alison Lester visited Arnhem Land, this book is based on a story the Upper Primary students made about their lives.

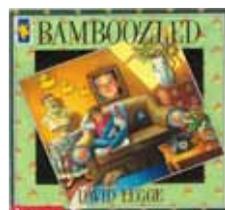


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Legge, David

**BAMBOOZLED** (Scholastic)

A young girl who visits her grandfather regularly finds everything stays the same, but this time there is something different and it nags at her consciousness all through the visit. Children will spend hours examining the illustrations, which are full of movement and humour.



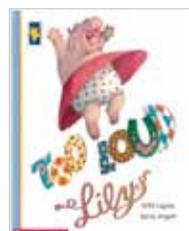
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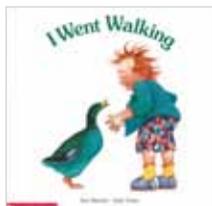
Lagua, Sophie

Illustrated by Kerry Argent

**TOO LOUD LILY** (Omnibus Books/Scholastic)

Everyone in her family says Lily is too loud. She is too loud at home - she wakes the baby. She is too loud in class, too. But when Miss Loopiola comes to her school to teach music and drama, Lily Hippo finds she is loud in just the right way.





**Machin, Sue**  
Illustrated by Julie Vivas  
**I WENT WALKING** (Scolastic)

A child's farmyard stroll reveals all sorts of animal friends - a black cat, a brown horse, a red cow...  
Julie Vivas' joyous illustrations give warmth and colour to a simple rhyming story that will delight the very young.

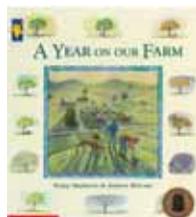
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**Mullins, Patricia**  
**ONE HORSE WAITING FOR ME** (Scholastic)

So many fabulous horses. Patricia Mullins excels herself in this joyous celebration of her favourite animal. Spectacular torn-tissue collages provide a magical journey through numbers one to 12 and will delight horse lovers of all ages.

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**Matthews, Penny**  
Illustrated by Andrew McClean  
**A YEAR ON OUR FARM** (Omnibus Books/Scholastic)

A Year On Our Farm shows the passing of the seasons through the eyes of the children for whom the farm and all its animals are home. Every month there are jobs to do - fruit ripens, lambs are born, hay is harvested. With wonderful illustrations by Andrew McLean, the author follows these activities.

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**Oliver, Narelle**  
**THE HUNT** (Lothian)

As darkness falls a tawny frogmouth begins the nightly hunt for food for its young. It is a difficult job as the creatures it seeks are masters of camouflage. As it is too when the need arises.

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**Prior, Natalie Jane**  
Illustrated by Terry Denton  
**THE PAW** (Little Ark)

Follows the adventures of a mild-mannered school girl, who at night takes on the persona of the Paw.

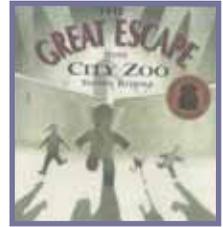
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Riddle, Toby

**THE GREAT ESCAPE FROM CITY ZOO** (A&R/Harper Collins)

One night, under a full moon, four animals make a daring break-out from City Zoo. Can they make a life for themselves on the outside? Or will their past catch up with them wherever they go? This thrilling adventure awaits readers both young and old.

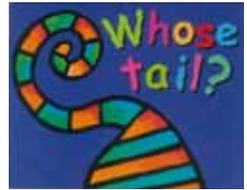


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Rowe, Jeannette

**WHOSE TAIL?** (ABC Books)

Whose tail can you see? Whose tail can they be? Children will love to lift the large flap on each spread to reveal who all the different tails belong to. Also available Whose nose? Whose feet? Whose ears? Whose baby Whose house?



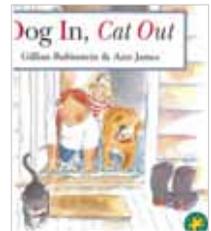
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Rubinstein, Gillian

Illustrated by Ann James

**DOG IN, CAT OUT** (Scholastic)

'Dog in, cat out, Cat in, dog out, Dog out, cat out, Cat in, dog in...' And so it goes, from early morning until late at night. This endless progression of dog and cat, in and out sets the scene for a delightfully detailed series of illustrations that chronicles a family's busy day.



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Stanley, Elizabeth

**THE DELIVERANCE OF DANCING BEARS** (Cygnet/UWA Press)

For the imprisoned brown bear in Elizabeth Stanley's The Deliverance of Dancing Bears, the dream is simply to be a bear. Freed from her cage and shackles and the controlling iron ring forcibly pierced through her nose, she would be able to enjoy the warm sun, the crisp mountain water, and the enlivening forests to which her kind is best suited.



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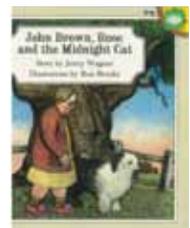
Wagner, Jenny

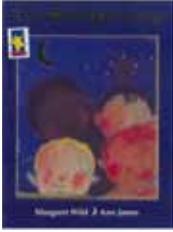
Illustrated by Ron Brooks

**JOHN BROWN, ROSE AND THE MIDNIGHT CAT**

(Viking/Kestrel)

Rose lived with her dog, John Brown. "Just the two of us," said Rose, until the mysterious midnight cat came along, and things began to change. An award-winning classic tale.





**Wild, Margaret**

Illustrated by Ann James

**THE MIDNIGHT GANG** (Omnibus Books)

What do babies do at night, when everyone else is asleep?

Join baby Brenda and her gang, and find out.

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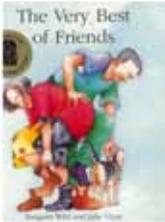
**Wild, Margaret**

Illustrated by Julie Vivas

**OUR GRANNY** (Allen and Unwin)

Two children compare their granny with others. Some grannies have thin legs, fat knees, crinkly eyes or big soft laps. Their granny has a wobbly bottom and wears an old red sweater that was once owned by grandpa. She has a style of her own and to the children who love her, this granny is perfect. Full of warmth and good humour.

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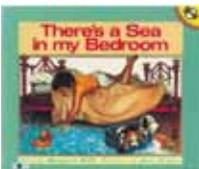
**Wild, Margaret**

Illustrated by Julie Vivas

**THE VERY BEST OF FRIENDS** (Margaret Hamilton)

Jessie, James and William the cat live on a farm with 50 cattle, 20 chickens, four horses and three dogs. One day their lives are changed, never to be the same again.

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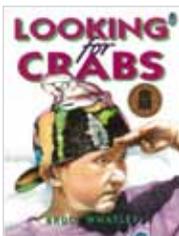
**Wild, Margaret**

Illustrated by Jane Tanner

**THERE'S A SEA IN MY BEDROOM** (Nelson)

David is frightened of the sea. One day he finds a conch shell at the beach and takes it home. He can hear the sea trapped inside. "Come out, sea, come out," he says softly. "I won't hurt you." A beautifully illustrated story, which will take the reader into a child's fantasy world.

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**Whatley, Bruce**

**LOOKING FOR CRABS** (A&R/Harper Collins)

When you are on holidays and its too cold to swim, what can you do?

You can look for crabs. But search carefully, they are very hard to find.

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## You can read anytime, anywhere!

- Find a quiet place. Turn off the television.
- As well as reading the text, talk about the pictures.
- Re-read favourite stories. Familiarity brings reassurance.
- Children will begin to remember the words in their favourite stories and read along with you.
- When you read aloud with children have fun with it - be daring not dull, children will pick up on your enjoyment and be filled with joy themselves.
- Look for rhyme, rhythm and repetition in books.
- Read short books to younger children, increase the word content as your children develop.
- Set a regular time for reading – a story before bed or bath.
- Snuggle up together with all the family.
- Read a story to fill in time while waiting at the doctor, dentist or bus stop.
- Reading to your child is a great way to settle them for bed.

## Make literacy a part of your everyday.

- Share 10 minutes each day with your children in story time.
- Read road signs while in the car.
- Talk about the day's events.
- Sing songs during bath time.
- Discuss items on your shopping list while you are shopping.
- Read a favourite story together.
- Draw or paint a picture and talk about it.
- Dress up and dance to music.
- Play a game as a family and have fun.
- Tell a story about when you were young or about your family.
- Involve your child in choosing a recipe and then make a cake or meal, talking your way through it.
- Make up silly stories.
- Make up stories with your child as the main character.

**Contact information:**

Early years' team

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The **Story Time Anytime** project has been implemented by Wodonga Council as a 'Learning City' project. The **Story Time Anytime** project is a community-based early literacy initiative that promotes the importance of story time with young children from birth to five years of age.