Well-being and life skills literature lists
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Compiled by

Pat Pledger
Well-being and life skills literature lists

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Introduction

Welcome to **Wellbeing and life skills literature lists**. This book contains annotated lists of fiction and some non-fiction which support a Well-being program in schools. It also fits the General Capabilities strand in the Australian curriculum with an emphasis on the Personal and Social Capability theme.

It is designed to help the busy teacher and teacher/librarian easily find books that are suitable for the curriculum under themes that will enhance well-being, social and emotional skills and life skills.

The titles have been carefully selected for their appropriateness and quality. The lists contain a range of books including many that are newly published as well as some that may already be available in the library. They also represent a range of genres. Many will have been reviewed by ReadPlus Review blog reviewers and reviews are available at https://www.readplus.com.au/reviewsindex.php

Others will be on lists of award winning books.

Each title is annotated, giving a taste of what the book is about. Approximate age levels are given and the lists are divided into the following groups: Picture books, Primary and Secondary. However what is suitable for one child or class of children or age level may not be suitable for another child or class or age level. Teachers and teacher/librarians will need to read the books and judge the suitability for their particular clientele and school situation before using them in the classroom.

For more guidance you could use ReadPlus, an online database of fiction organised under themes. As more titles are published, they will be entered into ReadPlus, so that your lists will always be up-to-date. For more information visit https://www.readplus.com.au

For a trial of ReadPlus fill out the form at https://www.readplus.com.au/trial.php

Newly published books are being constantly reviewed at the free ReadPlus review blog available at https://www.readplus.com.au/blog.php

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Anger management

Picture books

Bang, Molly. *When Sophie gets angry - really, really angry*  
Scholastic, 2004.  
Sophie takes the time to calm down and gain her composure after she gets really angry.

Bauer, Michael Gerard. Krebs, Chrissie. *Rodney loses it*  
Scholastic, 2017.  
Rodney loses his cool and falls down broken hearted when he loses his special pen.

Dockrill, Laura. *Angry cookie*  
Cookie is angry. His best friend, the cactus, plays his recorder badly, a pigeon tries to snack on him, and he has had a bad haircut. In fact, his whole day goes awry but he still has friends.

Jeffers, Oliver. *Fate of Fausto: a painted fable*  
Fausto stamps his feet and puts up a fight in order to get his own way.

O'Brien, Belinda. *Monsters inside*  
Jack’s monsters always want to come out whenever he gets angry or upset. What can he do to stop them?

Percival, Tom. *Ravi's roar*  
Bloomsbury, 2019.  
Ravi becomes very cross when he can’t do what the others can, so cross that his face becomes hotter and redder, a tail appears behind him, his hands develop claws and his face becomes striped, and he can roar like a tiger.

Don’t make Little Monster cross, especially as he thinks the birthday party is all about him.

Primary

Balen, Katya. *Space we're in*  
Frank loves his autistic brother Max - but is sometimes angry with Max's demands. When tragedy hits the family will he be able to cope?

Bailey, Patricia. *The tragically true adventures of Kit Donovan*  
In a Nevada mining town in 1905, thirteen-year-old Kit uses the life skills learned from reading *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* to go undercover at the local newspaper and manage her anger about the unfair practices at the local mine.

Dahl, Roald. *The magic finger*  
Angered by a neighbouring family's sport hunting, an eight-year-old girl turns her magic finger on them.

Paterson, Katherine. *Great Gilly Hopkins*  
Eleven-year-old Gilly has been stuck in more foster families than she can remember, and she's disliked them all. She has a reputation for angry and unmanageable, and that's the way she likes it.
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Anger management

Williams, Marcia. **Cloud boy**
Angie Moon keeps a diary while her lifetime friend of the same age, Harry next door, contracts a serious illness. She records her growing anger at what she construes as friend Harry's obstinate refusal to get better. Teacher's notes are available at the publisher's website.

Wilson, Jacqueline. **My mum Tracy Beaker**
Tracy Beaker's anger management issues are seen through the eyes of her daughter Jess.

Secondary

Curtis, Vanessa. **Lilah May's manic days**
Frances Lincoln Children's, 2012.
Can Lilah sort out her family, her friendship and her love life? Or is her anger about to reach all new levels?

Divaroren, Demet. **Living on Hope Street**
Kane is a bundle of anger building to explode against his violent father. He has lost track at school and is caught stealing. But he gradually makes new friends at the alternative Teaching Space he has to attend and with the migrant teenagers in his street. Teacher's notes are available at the publisher's website.

Downham, Jenny. **Furious thing**
Alexandra has a very bad temper and misbehaves, but thinks if she can control herself, her mom would love her, her stepfather would accept her and her stepbrother would want to spend the rest of his life with her.

Oshiro, Mark. **Anger is a gift**
Tor Teen, 2018.
Black teenager Moss Jeffries is still grieving from the loss six years earlier of his father by the trigger finger of a police officer. His mother advises him to use his anger to get things done.

Plozza, Shivaun. **Frankie**
Frankie is smart, intellectually brilliant and very, very angry. Abandoned by her mother, her father not around at all, she is only just tolerated by her school peers and teachers.
Well-being and life skills literature lists

Anxiety

Picture books

Browne, Anthony. Willy and the Cloud
Willy has a dark cloud following him, no matter what he does to try and get rid of it. When he goes to the park, everyone else is sitting in the sun but he shivers under the cloud. He tries to work out how to make it leave, but nothing works until he comes up with a solution to banish it.

Jenkins, Lynette Fay. Lonergan, Kirrili. Perfect petunias
EK, 2018.
In one village on one side of the mountains live the LACs - Little Anxious Children who constantly look for danger and who only have negative self-talk; in another village on the other side of the mountains live their enemies the Calmsters who can take life as it comes because of their positive self-talk. Loppy LAC (Little Anxious Children) is very worried about not doing his homework well enough. He is always focusing on what he hasn't done rather then what he has, and he becomes very frustrated. Another is Lessons of a LAC (2018).

MacKenzie, Emily. Eric makes a splash
Bloomsbury, 2018.
Eric is a worrier. He worries about the smallest of things. But when an invitation comes along for a pool party he is dismayed. His friend Flora must make an extra effort to get him into bathers and to the pool's edge and finally into the water.

Percival, Tom. Ruby's worry
Ruby's life is carefree and happy, but one day a worry finds her. At first it is a very small worry and can be hidden behind her, or even ignored. But as time goes on the worry increases in size, becoming a constant shadow next to her. When she talks to a little boy in the park, their worries decrease.

Sanna, Francesca. Me and my fear
A young refugee girl is accompanied by her Fear who tells her to be alone and afraid. She becomes lonelier but then a boy talks to her and they begin to do things together, making the fear smaller.

Primary

Copeland, Sam. Charlie turns into a T-rex
Puffin, 2019.
When Charlie McGuffin gets stressed, something a little bit different happens: he turns into an animal! While this sequel is another split-your-sides-laughing kind of story, the humour has effectively been used as a mechanism for addressing childhood anxiety with the lightest of touches.

Durrant, S.E. Running on empty
When AJ's grandfather dies things begin to come apart and he tries to keep his grief and anxiety at bay by running.

Roy, James. On the road
Chook is going on holiday to visit family and is expected to play with his cousins. He is worried about whether he will get along with them.
Well-being and life skills literature lists

Anxiety

Shanahan, Lisa. Grand, genius summer of Henry Hoobler
Henry Hoobler is a boy with worries. He is travelling with his family on a camping holiday but would rather stay at home with Nonna and not have to think about all the things that could go wrong or have to face the challenge of learning to ride the ominous new bike that is coming along on the holiday too. Teacher’s notes are available from the publisher’s website.

Williamson, Lara. Girl with space in her heart
Usborne, 2019.
Ten-year-old Mabel and her older sister, Topaz, are finding it hard to cope with the separation of their parents. When their mother starts dating Galactic Gavin, Mabel worries whether he is the right man for her.

Secondary

Dessen, Sarah. The rest of the story
When Emma Saylor is sent to spend the holidays at North Lake with her grandmother and cousins, people she hasn’t seen since she was a small child, she finds things difficult. Here she is called Saylor, while at home she is called Emma by her father and other family members. There are unknown cousins to become acquainted with and Roo the boy who had been her best friend when she was little.

Keil, Melissa. Secret science of magic
Hardie Grant Egmont, 2017.
Sophia is very smart - she loves mathematics and finds it easy to relate to logic. Joshua loves his magic tricks and is obsessed with finding a way to get to know Sophia. He decides that timing is everything and begins a campaign starting with leaving 2 of hearts card in her TARDIS wallet. As the end of school life looms, both have to come to terms with change and work out what they will do with their futures.

Lord, Emery. Names they gave us
Her mother wants to spare Lucy the worry of her cancer treatment and asks her to work at the summer camp she herself attended as a troubled teen. At camp Daybreak Lucy sees how the less fortunate live and becomes protective of her young charges. She feels happier in the service of others.

Jonsberg, Barry. Song only I can hear
Rob has a huge crush on the new girl at school. But Rob is painfully shy and suffers severe panic attacks. Teacher’s notes are available on the publisher’s website.

Sutherland, Krystal. Semi-definitive list of worst nightmares
Esther Solar has a dysfunctional family life. Her twin brother is severely challenged by the dark, her mother is afraid of bad luck and her father has not left the basement for years but Esther manages to keep going. Teacher’s notes are available on the publisher’s website.

Wakefield, Vikki. This is how we change the ending
16 year old Nate McKee is doing his best to stay a good person in terrible circumstances. His only refuge from a violent father is hanging out at the local youth centre, and when its closure is threatened, doesn't know what he will do without this one safe place outside of school. Teacher's notes are available on the publisher's website.
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Body Image

Picture books

Anderson, Laura Ellen. *I don't want curly hair* Bloomsbury, 2017.
The girl with curly hair really wanted it straight, and the girl with straight hair tried to curl hers. This book will encourage children to look at their positives and not to be dissatisfied with how they look.

Anderson, Laura Ellen. *I don't want to be small* Bloomsbury Children's Books, 2019.
The boy tells us of his problem, being so small that his friends forget him, or that he is not allowed to go on the bigger rides at the fair. When his bear gets stuck in a tree, a taller girl comes by and offers to help get the teddy out of the tree, and together they sort out the problem. A story promoting satisfaction with what you are, of loving who and what you are.

Barkla, Charlotte. *All bodies are good bodies* illus. by Erica Salcedo. Hardie Grant, 2020.
In this superbly illustrated book, each body part such as hands, hair, eyes and even tummies is featured while those characteristics which make them unique are celebrated.

Logan the little pup is rejected because he has one floppy ear, but finally a young girl and her mother come along and see him, crying out that he is perfect because of his one floppy ear and he has found his home. A sweet story of belonging, of being different, of accepting one’s difference, this tale could be used in the classroom to look at the tricky subject of body image, difference and acceptance.

Millie feels that she is a plain old boring muffin and aspires to be like the Cupcake Girls who are glitzy and glamorous. While on her daily stroll she meets other treats who are also feeling lost and lacking in confidence about how they look. Millie kindly points out what makes them special and realises that she is not the only one unhappy with her looks.

Young girls are encouraged to love and celebrate their bodies for the amazing things that they can do, regardless of imperfections.

Primary

Greg Heffley is getting close to puberty and facing all the changes that that means for his body. Not only are there orthodontics and boy-girl parties but he and his best friend Rowley have had a fight.

Sulwe compares herself to her fairer skinned and popular sister and attempts to lighten her skin but to no avail. She eventually shares her pain with her mother who supports her with love and understanding.

Pearce, Jackson. *Doublecross: (and other skills I learned as a superspy)* Bloomsbury, 2015.
Hale Jordan is an overweight and un-athletic Spy School trainee. He is “fat” according to his classmates. Will he make it as a super spy?
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Body Image

Telgemeier, Raina. *Smile*  
When eleven-year-old Raina injures her two front teeth she has to face the embarrassment of braces and headgear and some of her friends are not very friendly.

Secondary

Mackler, Carolyn. *The universe is expanding and so am I*  
Bloomsbury, 2018.  
Virginia must learn to accept her plus-size body while she is struggling with the fact that her brother has been suspended from college for date rape. Her boyfriend doesn’t interest her anymore and she is becoming close to a new boy, Sebastian, but a secret threatens everything.

Murphy, Julie. *Dumplin’*  
Balzer + Bray, 2017.  
Willowdean Dickson, Dumplin’ to her mother, decides to enter a local beauty pageant after she begins to have self-doubts about herself and her relationship with Bo.

Salamon, Winnie. *Pretty girls don’t eat*  
Sixteen-year-old Winter Mae Jones wants a career in fashion design but she’s fat and she thinks that fat girls don’t work in the fashion industry. Then she goes on a diet.

StVil, Lola. *Girls like me*  
Shay Summers has it tough. Her father has died and she is being bullied by a girl at school. She is also overweight and conceals who she is from Blake, the boy she has fallen in love with online.

Tozer, Gabrielle. *Remind me how this ends*  
Angus & Robertson, 2017.  
The issues of bullying, body image, self-confidence and sex add depth to this story as Josie traverses her journey of self-discovery and transforms by realising that being true to yourself is more important to her than she knew. Teacher’s notes are available on the publisher’s website.

Webster, Allayne. *Sensitive*  
When moving to a new town where her father now teaches, Samantha wants to hide her old self, calling herself SJ and hoping that the others at school do not notice her flaky, sensitive skin, prone to redness and itchiness. Teacher’s notes are available on the publisher’s website.

Winter, Tamsin. *Jemima Small versus the universe*  
Usborne, 2019.  
Jemima Small is determined to prove that she is a Big Deal, even though she has been forced to join a healthy eating group at school in order to control her weight.
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Bullying

Picture books

Cosgrove, Matt. Macca the alpaca
Scholastic Australia, 2018.
Harmer the llama is a bully, and does some despicable things to Macca, until they decide to have a challenge to see who is best.

DeGennaro, Sue. Missing Marvin
Scholastic Press, 2018.
When Marvin finds his friends' jokes are just too much, he goes missing, so it is up to the friends to find him, reassure him, and for Marvin to say how he feels when they tease.

Dreise, Gregg. Mad magpie
'Stay calm like the surface of the water, yet strong like its current.' Greg Dreise's third morality tale Mad Magpie is dedicated to those children who have been picked on or bullied.

Innes, Shona. The playground is like the jungle
Playgrounds are a little bit like a jungle. When lots of different creatures come together in one place, things can get really wild and adventurous.

Lionni, Leo. Swimmy
A school of fish discovers it can defend itself against a bully shark by working together.

Primary

Beck, Adrian. Dale
Monvale Primary School is preparing to perform in a new musical The Schoolyard Jungle written by music teacher Mr. Johnson. Dale has to overcome his fears, take part in the auditions and been chosen for a special role.

Blackman, Malorie. Dangerous game
Barrington Stoke, 2018.
Sam really wants to prove himself on the school trip but when some boys take a reckless risk, the trip proves to be very dangerous.

Cahill, Tim. Tiny Timmy makes the grade
Scholastic Australia, 2016.
With hard work, dedication, plenty of backyard and after school practices, young Timmy is chosen for the Rep Team. His special skill is combining a turbo-powered jump with a header to shoot straight into the net. Even when Studs and Hacker, two bullies, taunt him, call him names and play pranks on him, Timmy is not fazed.

Gibbes, Lesley. Fizz and the police dog tryouts
Scholastic Australia, 2016.
Fizz is desperate to be a police dog, and help with the running down and capture of criminals, but he is a fluffy little lap dog, destined like his parents and siblings to be a show dog or a companion dog, not a working dog like the bully dogs, Rottweilers and German Shepherds.

Kelly, Erin Entrada. Hello, Universe
Winner of the Newberry Medal 2018. In one day, four friends' lives weave together in unexpected ways and through luck and bravery, a rescue is performed, a bully is put in his place, and friendship blooms. Teacher's notes are available on the publisher's website.
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Harrold, A.F. *Song from somewhere else*
Bloomsbury, 2016.
Francesca’s pet cat has gone missing and she meets up with the local Junior School bully and his two goons while she is out putting up Missing Cat posters. Her fear rises and overtakes her until Nick, the big ostracised kid from her class, rescues her from another incident of humiliation.

Harry, Pip. *A little wave*
When a Manly school decides to host a country class for a visit to the seaside, the children involved all face challenges. Noah loves to surf, but doesn’t know how to stop his friend from bullying him. Lottie lives with her grief stricken father who hoards enormous amounts of junk and Jack is a great cricketer, but often doesn’t turn up to school and has family problems. Teacher notes are available from the publisher.

McDonald, Meme Pryor, Boori. *My Girragundji*
This wonderful little book burst onto the scene in 1998, and a reprint for its twentieth anniversary is most welcome. Semi-autobiographical, it tells the story of a young Aboriginal boy sandwiched between two worlds, and bullied at school because of his colour.

Merrison, Carl. *Black cockatoo*
Jy is becoming disrespectful and is drawn into cruel and thoughtless games with other unruly teenagers. Mia is trying to follow a ‘both ways’ path, gradually discovering her totemic connection to the durrarn, and also studying hard at school. Teacher’s notes are available on the publisher’s website.

Nannestad, Katrina. *Olive of Groves and the great slurp of time*
Olive’s voice of reason and her kindness come to the fore in the midst of the crazy and bizarre happenings that follow when a time traveller lands in the midst of the usual ‘madness’ of the unusual school life, and inadvertently creates a ‘time slurp’.

Peirce, Lincoln. *Big Nate blasts off*
Big Nate is an ordinary kid who deals with a dad who makes dreadful lunches, a fellow classmate who intends harm, a connection with a girl that is hinting at romance and the normal ups and downs of school life with his friends.

Tabain, Dave. *POWman*
Instead of concentrating on his Maths, Dave writes down his POW plan for helping Stu who is being bullied.

Turley, Beth. *If this were a story*
Ten-year-old Hannah copes with the bullies at school and trouble at home through the power of her imagination.

Winter, Tamsin. *Being Miss Nobody*
Rosalind is weird girl who doesn't talk and is picked on at school. So she starts a blog - Miss Nobody; a place where she has a voice. But is Miss Nobody becoming a bully herself?
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Bullying

Secondary

Abdel-Magied, Yassmin. **You must be Layla**
Layla’s first day at an elite private school is a disaster, and it ends up with her being suspended before she’s even started, because she head-butts the school bully who happens to be the son of the Chair of the school board. Teacher’s notes are available on the publisher’s website.

Alt, Alexandra. **Promise**
It is 1942 and 15 year old Lene lives with her mother in a Berlin apartment block, her father is away at the war. Above them are the Schlucks and she walks to school each day with their son Ludwig. Hitler Youth is compulsory for boys. Both hate being part of the brutal organisations and Ludwig has been secretly listening to allied radio broadcasts, which is considered treason. Bullying and intimidation escalate.

Amnesty International United Kingdom. **Here I stand: stories that speak for freedom**
The focus is not so much on political issues and human rights so much as the commonly encountered issues of bullying, abuse, self-identity, LGBT rights, exploitation, loneliness, and similar issues experienced by many young people. The authors are 25 leading writers and illustrators inspired by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, writers such as Neil Gaiman, John Boyne, Tony Birch, Sita Brahmachasi, Kevin Brooks and others.

Anderson, M. T. **Burger wuss**
Hoping to lose his loser image, Anthony plans revenge on a bully which results in a war between two competing fast food restaurants, Burger Queen and O'Dermott's.

Beauvais, Clementine. **Piglettes**
Mireille, Astrid and Hakima are three girls at the same school and recently voted as the first three place-winners in a Facebook 'Pig Pageant' for the ugliest girls by their schoolmates. While the girls are all pretty crushed by this horrible bullying, they are not going to let it get the better of them and form a friendship that will fly them forever.

Crowley, Cath, Howell, Simmone. Wood Fiona. **Take three girls**
When the private school they attend starts a Wellness program to combat the cyber bullying that is taking place, three girls find themselves in the same group and begin to question the nature of friendship especially as the toxic PSST website has targeted them and other girls with nasty rumours and innuendos. Teacher notes are available on the publisher’s website.

Daddo, Andrew. **One step**
Dylan becomes the butt of everyone’s humour and taunts after a bullying incident and his own lack of wisdom in the moments afterwards.

Donnelly, Jennifer. **Step sister**
Award winning author Donnelly takes the reader on an engrossing tour examining what happens to Cinderella's step family after she leaves to marry the prince.

Herrick, Steven. **Another night in mullet town**
Jonah and Manx not only are facing the dilemmas of teenage life but their small coastal town is being taken over by rich city developers. Teacher’s notes are available from the publisher.
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Bullying

King, Nadia L. Jenna's Truth
‘Inspired by Amanda Todd's tragic story of bullying, Jenna's truth is more than just a teen short story - it's a lesson in empathy, self-awareness, and speaking out about what matters.’
(Publisher). Teacher's notes are available on the publisher's website.

Lange, Erin Jade. Chaos of now
Faber & Faber, 2018.
A group of hackers make a website for people to voice their own opinions. The hackers claim they want nothing but payback for the bullies who drove a student to take their own life. Eli, a hacker himself, is not sure if he wants to get involved.

McCaffrey, Kate. Saving Jazz
Fremantle Arts Centre Press, 2016.
At a Friday night party in their small country town south of Perth, some of the year ten friends get horribly drunk and one girl, Annie has pictures of her naked body shared on Snapchat. Her best friend, Jazz is appalled and thinks back wondering why she had not protected her friend. Teacher notes are available on the publisher’s website.

McPherson, Sue. Brontide
Four boys aged 12 to 17 from Taralune, Queensland, were interviewed independently by the author. While the boys have had different upbringings they are all faced with the challenge of finding their own path and who they want to be. It is a thought-provoking, interesting book, which highlights the complexities of growing up in a small urban town whether you are of Aboriginal heritage or white Australian. Teacher notes are available on the publisher’s website.

Mittlefehldt, Rafi. It looks like this
Candlewick, 2018.
Fifteen year old Mike has a gentle temperament and likes to draw. He is drawn to a new boy at his school. He is also bullied by his father who would like him to play sports and be tough. He reluctantly attends the evangelical church that his parents go to, but things become difficult when a bully uploads a film of the boys making out to YouTube and tips off both dads.

Mitchell, Saundra. The prom
Emma is in her senior year at high school and the only out lesbian at her school. Her girlfriend and student president, Alyssa, is struggling with coming out to her mother ahead of prom, the biggest event on their school calendar.

Morgan, Kass. Light years
Hodder, 2018.
Joining the Quatra Fleet is the dream of any Tridian and the admittance of Settlers into the highly competitive program is like a slap in the face. While the Tridian cadets try to maintain their superiority, they forget their common enemy and the reason the Quatra Fleet was formed in the first place. Can they overcome their petty rivalry to face the greater enemy in time?

Morris, Brittney. SLAY
Teenage college student, Kiera, has created her own original computer game, 'Slay', built around black heroes. Her idea was to create a safe place for black gamers without racist stereotypes and bullying. But suddenly things start to go wrong and a student is murdered.

Ness, Patrick. Monster calls
From an original idea by Siobhan Dowd. It's bad enough that Conor's mum is battling cancer; it's bad enough that Conor is having dreadful nightmares but things become even worse when the yew tree monster comes to call.
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Bullying

Nunn, Malla. *When the ground is hard*
Nunn describes the hierarchy of the elite boarding school and the malicious gossip and put-downs designed to keep people in their places. Adele has always been a part of that. But she finds herself sharing with someone who doesn't play the game. Lottie is strong and tough, and she fights back. Gradually Adele finds herself being challenged by Lottie's ideas and the way she says what she thinks. Teacher notes are available on the publisher's website.

Palacio, R.J. *White bird: a Wonder story*
In this graphic novel, Julian discovers the moving and powerful tale of his grandmother, who was hidden from the Nazis as a young Jewish girl in occupied France during the Second World War, and helped by a young boy who was bullied.

Reid, Louisa. *Gloves off*
Lily turns sixteen with two very different sides to her life: school, where she is badly bullied, and home with her mum and dad, warm and comforting but with its own difficulties.

Sheppard, Holden. *Invisible boys*
Charlie, Zeke and Hammer each struggle to come to grips with their homosexuality in a small, conservative town. Teacher’s notes are available on the publisher’s website.

Silvey, Craig. *Jasper Jones*
A dead girl hangs from a tree in a spot everyone knows is Jasper’s private place. Together Charlie and Jasper try to uncover the killer before the police come for Jasper, knowing full well that if this happens, Jasper will end his days in jail.

Tan, Shaun. *Cicada*
Lothian, 2018.
Cicada works in an office, dutifully toiling day after day for unappreciative bosses and being bullied by his coworkers. But one day, Cicada goes to the roof of the building, and something truly extraordinary happens.

Tozer, Gabrielle. *Remind me how this ends*
Angus & Robertson, 2017.
The issues of bullying, body image, self-confidence and sex add depth to this story as Josie traverses her journey of self-discovery and transforms by realising that being true to yourself is more important to her than she knew. Teacher’s notes are available on the publisher’s website.

Walker, Di. *Unpacking Harper Holt*
Harper Holt never fully unpacks when her family moves - they move sometimes two or three times a year. However, the loss of a new school friend or two, doesn't compare with the sudden loss of her mother in a car accident, shortly after their latest move to Melbourne. The school bully, Rowena, is no match for Harper's courage - in part her mother's legacy and in part because Harper has hit rock bottom and has no time for the games of teenage girls.
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Communication

Picture books

Carnavas, Peter. Quiet girl
UQP, 2019.
Mary is a quiet girl, in a noisy family. She speaks quietly and notices everything. Sometimes she is so quiet that she is overlooked, but she shows her family what they have been missing. Teacher’s notes are available on the publisher’s website.

Cook, Julia. My mouth is a volcano!
National Center for Youth Issues, 2008.
Louis’ thoughts are very important to him, so much so that they erupt and interrupt everyone. He needs to listen and wait his turn to speak.

Cummings, Phil. Boy
Boy, who is deaf, lives in a small village on the edge of a forest and communicates with his ‘dancing hands’ and by drawing pictures in the sand. When a dragon and king who have been fighting stop to read his words, “Why are you fighting?” they discover that it is the result of misunderstanding and a lack of communication. Teacher’s notes are available on the publisher’s website.

DeGennaro, Sue. We’re stuck!
Scholastic Press, 2019.
Layers of understanding about life in a city, isolation and lack of communication will not go unnoticed by the readers when the apartment dwellers get stuck in a lift.

Jones, Christianne. Lacey Walker, nonstop talker
Lacey Walker just loves to talk nonstop, but when she loses her voice she discovers that listening is important.

Parish, Peggy. Amelia Bedelia
Amelia Bedelia is so anxious to please her new employers that she literally obeys their written instructions with hilarious results.

Reynolds, Peter H. Word collector
Jerome enjoys collecting and using words that he hears, reads, or sees, and discovers the joy of sharing them with others.

Reynolds, Peter H. Say something
Reynolds explores the many ways that a single voice can make a difference, and encourages children to speak out, to say what they feel and to make themselves heard.

Simpson, Kate. Ghosh, Ronojoy. Dear Grandpa
Henry sees the 2003 kilometres between him and his beloved Grandpa in terms of blue whales placed end to end, and goodnight kisses as impossible as shooting stars. The letters written between the two reveal the love that exists and the things that they once did together. Teacher’s notes are available on the publisher’s website.

Topouzoglou, Elena. Mr Pegg’s post
For many children this story will have new ideas for them to absorb, as Anna lives in a remote lighthouse, so remote that the only communication with her friends is via the post. Teacher’s notes are available on the publisher’s website.
Well-being and life skills literature lists

Communication

Primary

Beasley, Dion. Bell, Joanna. *Cheeky dogs: to Lake Nash and back*
Being profoundly deaf and contracting muscular dystrophy has not stopped Dion taking life as it comes, greeting every new day with purpose as he feeds and watches the dogs. Teacher's notes are available on the publisher's website.

Cohen, Sharon. *Starman and me*
Quercus, 2017.
Kofi is a thoughtful, sometimes-bullied young student whose perception of a strange apparition on the local roundabout leads him to an adventure of mind-blowing proportions. The 'apparition' Rorty Thrutch communicates with Kofi in strange ways and with a captivating grasp of English, and then leads him into a rescue mission that requires additional support.

Holt, Kimberly Willis. *Lost boy's gift*
Tilda knows how to look and listen closely, and it's that gift that helps Daniel find his way in his new house across the country.

Jennings, Paul. *Different dog*
A lonely boy who doesn't speak rescues a performing dog after a car accident and brings all of his courage to the surface. Teacher's notes are available on the publisher's website.

Lester, Cas. *Do you speak chocolate?*
Jaz has found the best way to make friends with new girl Nadima, who doesn't speak any English - by offering her a chocolate bar.

Nicholls, Sally. *Great telephone mix-up*
When a storm causes the telephone wires in a village to tangle, Margaret can't organise her fair, Jai can't speak to Aditi and Will is pleased because his mum doesn't know he is in trouble.

Perry, Chrissie. *Oops, I've done it again!*
Amelie Anderson is about to start Year 5, but she has a problem. When she's nervous she blurts out things, even other peoples’ secrets.

Secondary

Barnard, Sara. *Quiet kind of thunder*
Stephi, a selective mute, has recently been making progress for her ongoing anxiety, particularly at school, with the help of medication. Enter Rhys, who cannot hear at all.
Well-being and life skills literature lists

Communication

Crowley, Cath. **Words in deep blue**
Pan Macmillan Australia, 2016.
Many people write notes to loved ones, to friends, to those who are no longer living, or just to anyone who might, one day, find the note. Some write back, their reply encouraging friendship or relationships, and others just read the notes in the Howling Books store. Teacher’s notes are available on the publisher’s website.

Epstein, Sarah. **Small spaces**
15 years old and mute, Tash Carmody has been traumatised since childhood, when she witnessed her gruesome imaginary friend Sparrow lure young Mallory Fisher away from a carnival. At the time nobody believed Tash, and she has since come to accept that Sparrow wasn’t real. Teacher’s notes are available on the publisher’s website.

Keil, Melissa. **Secret science of magic**
Hardie Grant Egmont, 2017.
Sophia is very smart - she loves mathematics and finds it easy to relate to logic. Joshua loves his magic tricks and is obsessed with finding a way to get to know Sophia. He decides that timing is everything and begins a campaign starting with leaving 2 of hearts card in her TARDIS wallet. Teacher’s notes are available on the publisher’s website.

Lomer, Kathryn. **Talk under water**
University of Qld. Press, 2015.
Will and Summer meet online but when Will returns to his old hometown, Kettering, in Tasmania, Summer can no longer hide the fact that she is deaf. Will they be able to communicate? Teacher’s notes are available on the publisher’s website.

Millard, Glenda. **Stars at Oktober Bend**
Alice is 15 years old and suffering from brain damage. She cannot express herself out loud but does it through her poetry, pieces of which she leaves about the town. Her brother Joey is very protective of her, and he is the one who still goes to school and who looks after both her and their sick grandmother. Manny is a former boy soldier from Sierra Leone, who runs bare foot at night, trying to forget the people he left behind. When Alice and Manny meet, things begin to change for both of them. Teacher’s notes are available on the publisher’s website.

Summers, Courtney. **Sadie**
When her sister Mattie is found dead, and the police investigation is botched, Sadie, whose stutter hasn’t helped, is determined to bring her sister’s killer to justice. She hits the road following a few meager clues.

Tan, Shaun. **Eric**
Eric is described as a foreign exchange student but we can see he is most unusual indeed. Eric is an artist, and as odd as he may seem, he creates the most beautiful items. Although communication was difficult during his stay the precious gift he leaves speaks volumes.

Williams, Sean. **Impossible music**
One night Simon is struck deaf, by a stroke that destroys the part of the brain that hears. He has cortical deafness, an extremely rare form of sensorineural hearing loss. He becomes obsessed by what that means for music and sound - can there be music without hearing? Can he create music that is silent? Teacher’s notes are available on the publisher’s website.
Well-being and life skills literature lists

Conflict resolution

Picture books

Agee, Jon. Wall in the middle of the book
Scholastic Australia, 2019.
A young knight is sure that the wall protects his side of the book from the dangers of the other side and doesn’t notice the dangers on his own side. Who will help rescue him?

Antony, Steve. Green lizards vs. red rectangles
The green lizards and the red rectangles fight and fight. How can they live peacefully together?

Daywalt, Drew. The day the crayons quit
When Duncan opens his box of crayons, he finds letters all saying the same thing: We quit! Teacher’s notes are available from the publisher.

Gordon, Gus. Last peach
Two bugs discover the late peach on a warm summer's day. They tell each other just how beautiful this peach is, and debate about what to do, whether to just admire it or eat it.

John, Jory. All right already!: a snowy story
Bear wants one thing - usually a quiet life - while Duck wants the opposite.

Stott, Ann. Want to play trucks?
When Jack asks Alex to play trucks, there is a small problem to overcome. Alex would prefer to play with his doll. They decide that the doll can drive the truck and so all is well.

Vass, Coral. Sorry day
February 13, 2008 is the setting of this tale as Maggie and her mother stand amongst the crowd eagerly waiting for Prime Minister Kevin Rudd to say sorry to Aboriginal families for taking away their children as a matter of government policy.

Primary

Britt, Fanny. Louis undercover
Louis shuttles between his alcoholic father and his anxious mother, and who, with the help of his best friend, tries to speak to Billie, a brave girl who stands up to bullies in his class.

Cox, Emma. Malkin Moonlight
Bloomsbury, 2016.
As Malkin and Roux search for a new home they come across a recycling centre populated by cats who are divided into two warring camps: those on the 'good' side of the centre where they are cared for by the workers; and those who lurk on the toxic dump site over 'the wall'. Only Malkin can unite these two factions and create a peace that will last forever.

Jamieson, Victoria. All's faire in middle school
Dial Books for Young Readers, 2017.
Imogen has been home-schooled all her life and now she is going to middle school with all its problems to be navigated.
Well-being and life skills literature lists

Conflict resolution

Temple, Kate. *Birthday wars*
Alice Tooie and her worst enemy Jimmy Cook have a huge problem. Their birthday parties are on the same day, and they have both invited the whole class.

Whittle, Cate. *Wyrd*
Emma and Pip, short for Philippa already know each other at school. In the same year group, 5/6, they hate each other with a vengeance. Now that they are to become a blended family, their hostility increases. How will they manage?

Secondary

Abdel-Fattah, Randa. *Ten things I hate about me*
Jamila Towfeek hides her Lebanese-Muslim background from the other kids at school by dying her hair blond and wearing blue contact lenses. This is fraught with difficulties and gradually she changes.

Alexander, Kwame. *Booked*
Nick Hall’s world turns upside down when he can’t play football, his parents are divorcing and bullies target him. His father’s obsession with words finally help him with the bullies and get the girl.

Almond, David. *War is over*
John’s mother works in a munitions factory putting shrapnel into shells; his father is fighting in the trenches in France and his teacher, a most unpleasant character, insists that the children too are fighting a war. But there is a man, Dorothy's Uncle Gordon, who has been forced to live in the woods and who doesn't believe in the war and insists that the children in Germany are just like the children where John lives.

Donnelly, Jennifer. *Step sister*
Isabelle, one of Cinderella’s ugly stepsisters, believes that being pretty is the most important thing that she could wish for and begins a journey to find her heart, on the way learning that her strengths of bravery and fearlessness are ones worth having.

Heiss, Anita. *Our race for reconciliation*
Scholastic Australia, 2017.
The story of one family and its journey to Sydney for the People's Walk for Reconciliation across Sydney Harbour Bridge in 2000 is the basis for this evocative tale reflecting the solidarity shown on that day and on Sorry Days since, as all Australians recognise the past and look forward to a future together.

Lanagan, Margo. *Tintinnabula*
Illus. by Rovina Cai. Little Hare, 2017. picture book.
The term Tintinnabula means small tinkling bells and the young woman follows their sound to find that final good place that she needs. The idea that people in trouble can find a peaceful place within themselves is one that will resonate with readers and will be a comfort to those who are having problems, be they ones of mental illness or of war and violence.

Spinelli, Jerry. *Stargirl*
In this story about the perils of popularity, the courage of nonconformity, and the thrill of first love, an eccentric student named Stargirl changes Mica High School forever.
Well-being and life skills literature lists

Cooperation

Picture books

Jake and Anna's dad loves his garden. So do the scrub turkeys. Will they ever be able to share happily?

After a storm Hen gathers ten eggs beneath her, aware that some are not her eggs. Duck gives her one of her eggs, underlining the efforts we must make in helping others.

The Go-Away bird rejects attempts at friendship by other birds but when frightened by a larger bird is helped by a Come-Back bird who calls out, making sure the other birds return. Together the loud, colourful group of birds is able to scare off the larger predator and stay with the Go-Away bird in her tree.

Learning to get along with a new member of the family, especially one who wants what you have, can be a painful transition for some, and Mem Fox brings this issue to life with her delightful character Roly Poly.

Emily Green wants to bring the green into her home. She learns about plants and then decides to share the green with others. Teacher's notes are available on the publisher's website.

Tulip is a ladybug and lives with the other ladybugs amongst the flowers, while Brutus is a stinkbug, and stinkbugs live in trees. When threatened by a dragonfly, the ladybugs and stinkbugs work together to evade the invader, letting off a combined pall of smell, sure to deter any possible threat.

Two little girls are searching for the perfect leaf, enjoying the autumn day. This book explores the idea of perfection and its attainment, while extolling the virtues of cooperation with friends. Teacher's notes are available on the publisher's website.

Smith, Craig. Willbee the bumblebee Scholastic, 2019.
With help from Monica the butterfly and Steve the spider, Willbee recovers his jumper and is back to buzzing around the garden in no time.

Pip loves to sing while she does the dishes, her off key voice annoying Pop who has his own discomforting habit: he snores. This is a useful story to lead children into discussions about friendship and getting along together. Teacher's notes are available on the publisher's website.
Well-being and life skills literature lists

Cooperation

Primary

Chim, Wai. Shaozhen
The village where Shaozhen lives is facing hardship during the 2014 drought in Henan China. The floods haven't come this year and the crops are dying. As the water situation becomes dire, Shaozhen realises he must come up with a plan. Teacher's notes are available on the publisher’s website.

Do, Anh. Into the wild
Gwen is isolated from her family and alone in the wild, eventually gathering a collection of animals around her. What starts out as an impossible and motley combination proves to be a cohesive unit as the pack work together developing survival skills and exercising their own talents to enable their survival. This is followed by The great escape (2019).

Flanagan, John. Return of the Temujai
After an attack in a mountain strong-hold, and then in what seems to be an impossible up-river and against-the-odds sortie, the small band of misfit 'brothers' led by their youthful leader, Hal, are required to change the course of the threatening Temujai, the war-hungry nation of horse-riding archers.

Gratz, Alan. Allies
Scholastic, 2019.
For D-Day, June 6, 1944 to be a success, people from all over the world played a part, including US soldiers in the boats to the spies in the French Resistance.

Harris, Tim. Great river race
A number of 'reverse muggings' distract most of the Toffle Towers staff from providing their usual competent services while Chegwin makes a few mistakes in countering this obvious sabotage and learns important lessons about the value of consultation, respect and teamwork.

Laird, Elizabeth. Song of the dolphin boy
Finn has always been left out, but when he dives into the water feels at home with the dolphin, who are defenceless against rubbish in the sea and threatened by the fact that a supermarket might release balloons over the water. Desperate to help the dolphins, Finn goes to the Lighthouse Crew, a group of kids and asks them to help.

Patterson, James. Katt vs. Dogg
While on family camping trips, Molly and Oscar get hopelessly lost in the dangerous woods. The only way for the mortal enemies to survive is to work together.

Reynolds, Jason. Lu
Lu, the co-captain of the Defenders track team knows he can lead Ghost, Patina, Sunny, and the team to victory at the championships, but there are hurdles on the way that only the community, family and teamwork will help to overcome.

Temple, Kate Temple, Jol. Room on our rock
Scholastic, 2018.
The selfish seals try to keep their land for themselves, even though there is plenty of room. But in reading the book backwards, a welcome is given to share their rock, to join them.
Cooperation

Secondary

Gibbons, Alan. Home ground
Barrington Stoke, 2019.
Sam realises that Hasan has a lot of talent when he watches him play on the refugee team, and invites him and his friend Faisal to come and practise. However he needs to convince Jordan the captain and the team to all pull together.

Kaufman, Amie. Kristoff, Jay. Aurora rising
Along with his sister as diplomat and his best friend as pilot, Ty is stuck with the biggest misfits in Aurora Academy. And it’s only about to get worse. As inter-species tensions rise, their teamwork is about to face its biggest test ever, in the form of a stowaway hiding from the GIA. Teacher’s notes are available on the publisher’s website.

Kaufman, Amie. Spooner, Meagan. Ice wolves
When twelve-year-old orphan Anders and his twin sister, Rayna touch the staff, they each take an elemental form, Anders the ice wolf and Rayna the scorch dragon. Ice wolves and scorch dragons are sworn enemies who live deeply separate lives so it will be hard for Anders to find his sister.

Korman, Gordon. Juvie three
When Healy, who runs a halfway house, wakes up after trying to break up a fight, he has no memory of the boys or the halfway house. Afraid of being sent back to Juvie, the guys hatch a crazy scheme to continue on as if the group leader never left. But if the boys are discovered, their second chance will be their last so they must cooperate.

McKenna, Brenton. Return of the dragons
Set in Broome’s shadows, Ubby and the Underdogs team together to battle the wealthy and ambitious pearling industry bully, Donapleton, and mysterious others while searching for Sai Fong. This follows Legend of the phoenix dragon (2011) and Heroes beginnings (2013).

Pryor, Michael. Gap year in ghost town
Anton and Rani don’t agree about how ghosts should be handled but Melbourne is under siege with a huge increase in the number of violent ghost manifestations and these supernatural forces have to be controlled. With his father and friend Bec helping out, Anton joins forces with Rani and the four of them work to protect the people of Melbourne. This is followed by Graveyard shift in ghost town (2019). Teacher’s notes are available on the publisher’s website.

Reichs, Brendan. Chrysalis
Faced with trying to stay alive on a strange planet and then discovering that they may not be alone, should force Min, Noah, Tack and the others to work together, but being a team isn’t easy and they will have to decide to work together or die together. This follows Nemesis (2017) and Genesis (2018).

Saeed, Aisha. Amal unbound
Twelve-year-old Amal dreams of becoming a teacher but when she is forced to serve as an indentured servant on the corrupt Khan estate, she knows that she must find a way to work with others to bring about change. Teacher’s notes are available on the author’s website.
Creative thinking, curiosity

**Picture books**

Base, Graeme. *Amazing monster detectoscope*
From the bathroom to the bedroom, laundry and the kitchen, monsters lurk everywhere, and the plucky dog with his newly purchased machine can scope them out.

Browne, Anthony. *Little Frida*
Browne has used Kahlo's diary entries describing the time she met her imaginary friend beneath a dairy to write a poignant story about Frida's early life and her imagination. His illustrations, done in the style of Kahlo, are very evocative and tell a touching tale about a young girl's disability and quest for friendship.

Burrows, Fiona. *Violet and nothing*
Violet has big ideas and is always thinking about them. But when she starts thinking about nothing, it creates an impossible range of more questions to ponder and try to answer. A thought-provoking picture book for curious kids. Teacher's notes are available from the publisher's website.

Cummings, Phil. *Through the smoke*
Illus. by Andrew McLean. Scholastic, 2019.
Phil Cummings surrounds his story of children trapped in a firestorm with the metaphor of playing at knights and castles: each of his wonderfully evocative textual images parallels the imaginative games that the children play: castles and knights, dragons and swords, and when the fire appears, a dragon wakes, stalking them across the wheat fields.

Daddo, Andrew. *Whatcha building?*
Andrew Daddo and Stephen Michael King have created a multi-layered book about how our world is changing around us. When the old wooden milk bar is torn down and replaced with a shiny steel supermarket, Little Davey collects all the old timber. It isn't until the end that we find out that Davey has rebuilt the milk bar in his backyard.

Finn, Maura. *My magnificent jelly bean tree*
A young boy dreams of sprouting a tree from a jelly bean. Every page is a wonderful illustration of the possible adventures he could have in and with his jelly bean tree.

Jeffers, Oliver. Winston, Sam. *Child of books*
The girl asks the boy to join her as she sails on a sea of words and books, taking him on her voyage of the imagination, climbing mountains, finding treasure in a cave, losing themselves in a forest, escaping monsters, flying to the stars. All it takes is imagination, and books hold the key offering this experience to all.

Love, Jessica. *Julian is a mermaid*
A dazzling tribute to all those individuals not afraid to show their difference, who reflect diversity as well as those who support them, this book sings with the exuberance of the imagination and being an individual.

Martin, Marc. *What's up top?*
With vaguely subversive humour, the tale of what is at the top of the ladder will have students guessing and making predictions all the way through the book.
Well-being and life skills literature lists

Creative thinking, curiosity

Masson, Sophie. Building site zoo
Hachette Australia, 2017.
Walking to school is enhanced by looking closely at the machinery along the way. Granddad and the two children do not see just the machines but change them to animals that replicate the work the machine does.

Minchin, Tim. When I grow up
A child’s perspective of being an adult is shown with fun and music.

Oliver, Narelle. I want to be in a book
Scholastic Australia, 2017.
Cecil is a lizard hand-drawn on a piece of lined paper from an exercise book. He has big dreams: he wants to be in a book. He has watched while other drawings around him were ripped off the pin-board. He has seen them transformed with paint and coloured pencil and then appear in a book, shiny and with writing all around them.

Osborne, Robyn. My dog Socks
Socks’ owner loves walking with his dog, because wherever they go Socks becomes another animal. If they are in the forest, he becomes a black bear, scraping the trees with his claws, or a wild wolf, calling to the moon, or a terrible tiger, searching for prey.

Russell, Paul. Incurable imagination
Audrey has the most wonderful imagination and soon it spreads to other children and teachers.

Primary

Almond, David. Tale of Angelino Brown
Bert and Betty’s friends think the angel found in Bert Brown’s top pocket is lovely. So do Nancy, Jack and Alice from Class 5K. But others are not so sure and Buster Malone is out to get it. Good and evil is questioned and imaginations run wild.

Brooks, Ben. Impossible boy
Querus, 2019.
Oleg and Emma are best friends, hang out together at school and have their own little hideaway in the schoolyard. They use their imaginations to invent a student, Sebastian, and even add him to the class register and hand up work in his name. What shocks them both is when their imaginary friend, Sebastian actually shows up, in a bizarre cardboard spaceship.

Costain, Meredith. Music makers
Olivia comes up with an exciting concept: create new musical instruments by reusing and upcycling things from home and school. Box car racers is another in the series celebrating creativity.

Griffiths, Andy. 91-storey treehouse
The 91-storey treehouse is just one book in the weird and wonderful treehouse adventures and another thirteen new levels have been added, including the world’s most powerful whirlpool, a mashed-potato-and-gravy train and a human pinball machine.
Well-being and life skills literature lists

Creative thinking, curiosity

Harris, Tim. **Fully booked**  
Ten-year old Chegwin Toffle is a daydreamer of the most advanced kind, who, out of the blue, inherits a hotel. He is determined to make this run-down hotel into a success. Teacher’s notes are available on the publisher’s website.

Harris, Tim. **Mr Bambuckle’s remarkables**  
What amazing, funny and strange things will happen when flamboyant and mysterious Mr. Bambuckle arrives to take charge of class 12B at Blue Valley School? This is the first in the series highlighting fun and imagination.

Hart, Miranda. **The girl with the lost smile**  
Chloe Long has lost her smile. She’s looked everywhere for it until one night something magical happens, and she goes on an adventurous journey that celebrates the imagination and the strength of true friendship.

Mackay, Gregory. **Adventures of Anders**  
Anders and his friends have many adventures in this collection of three stories about Anders. Teacher’s tips and a book trailer are available from the publisher’s website.

Mass, Wendy, Stead, Rebecca. **Bob**  
Livy has just returned to Australia to see her grandmother after a five years absence. There are many things that she can’t remember and one of them is the strange little creature, dressed in a chicken suit, who is living in the cupboard in her room. His name is Bob and he tells Livy that she promised that she would help him find his home. Teacher’s notes are available from the publisher’s website.

Metzenthen, David. **George Parker goes global**  
Allen & Unwin, 2018  
David Metzenthen has created a crazy cast of characters in this globe-trotting adventure that is amazingly far-fetched, filled with laugh out loud humour and creativity. Teacher’s notes are available from the publisher’s website.

Miles, Alex. **Girl Geeks** series  
Alex Miles in collaboration with the Australian Girl Geek Academy present an exciting series. Their first novel *The Hackathon* encourages engagement with technology, getting your inner geek on! This series is written for girls from eight to twelve with coding, computing and creativity at the core.

Miller, Jessica. **Elizabeth and Zenobia**  
Text, 2016.  
Elizabeth and her brave friend Zenobia arrive at Witheringe House where they find wallpaper that seems to be alive, a book that tells a different story each night and a weird gardener who is obsessed with grafting plants. One of the fabulous challenges of the story is working out what belongs to Elizabeth’s imagination and what is real. Teacher’s notes are available from the publisher’s website.

Milway, Alex. **Hotel Flamingo**  
Anna’s ideas for revamping the hotel are wonderful. An early chapter book, filled with delightful animal characters and fun cartoon illustrations, it celebrates teamwork, determination, creativity and accepting others.
Well-being and life skills literature lists

Creative thinking, curiosity

Nannestad, Katrina. *Girl, the dog and the writer in Provence*  
Themes of friendship, family relationships, creativity and acceptance are beautifully interwoven in this story of Freja and Tobias in Claviers, Provence.

Nannestad, Katrina. *Lottie Perkins, fashion designer*  
Seven year old Lottie Perkins demonstrates her awesome creativity and flair by becoming a fashion designer, utilising items from her family wardrobe.

Riddell, Chris. *Ottoline and the purple fox*  
Ottoline and Mr Munroe meet a purple fox who takes them on an urban safari where they discover all the animals who live in the city. This is one of many stories about Ottoline.

Shepherd, Megan. *Secret horses of Briar Hill*  
When other children in London are evacuated to the country, Emmaline is taken to Briar Hill, Shropshire, which is a place for children with breathing difficulties. Her friend Anna, is sixteen and confined to bed, while some children are allowed to walk around the halls of the once beautiful building, and sometimes Emmaline is allowed outside. Here she finds a garden, and in that garden, a winged horse.

Tullet, Herve. *I have an idea!*  
The author explores the thrill of creativity when searching and finding an idea.

Yaxley, Sharon J. *Sea monsters*  
A book of photos from the seashore is given extra life by the inclusion of poetic lines giving a hint about what we are seeing. Not seaweed but monsters with eyes and tusks and jagged teeth, whispering tales from the deep. Teacher's notes are available from the author's website.

Secondary

Acevedo, Elizabeth. *Poet X*  
Electric Monkey, 2018.  
Xiomara Batista takes us on an emotional, heart rending journey through a tumultuous time in her young life and every moment of joy, agony and discovery, is powerfully communicated through her unique mix of prose and poetry.

Ahmed, Samira. *Love, hate & other filters*  
Soho Teen, 2018.  
Maya Aziz dreams of going to film school in New York. Her family have other ideas. They want her to be a dutiful daughter and train to be a doctor. Maya must find the strength to decide where she truly belongs.

Alvarez, Lorena. *Nightlights*  
Nobrow, 2016.  
At night, Sandy's imagination allows her to catch the lights that come into her room. She then uses them and her imagination to draw amazing designs and images. But the new girl at school notices them and is she really helping or is there something more sinister at work?

Gaiman, Neil. *Ocean at the end of the lane*  
Headline, 2015.  
When the family lodger stole their car and committed suicide in it forty years ago ancient powers were disturbed and it will be difficult for the narrator to stay alive.
Well-being and life skills literature lists

Creative thinking, curiosity

Georgia Productions. The amazingly disorganised help dictionary
Author and YouTube star, 19 year old Georgia, has amassed half a million followers from her bedroom in New South Wales. Her social commentary sheds light on daily teenage chaos in a way which will uplift both young and old.

Menon, Sandhya. From Twinkle, with love
Twinkle, a 16 year old high school student, dreams of being a movie director. When she hears about an up and coming film festival, she is determined to make her mark on the industry and direct an amazing movie for everyone to see.

Morgenstern, Erin. The night circus
The Circus of Dreams arrives and behind the scenes Celia and Marco play out a dramatic competition whilst falling in love.

Oram, Hiawyn. Nine worlds in nine nights: a journey through imaginary lands
A theoretical physicist Professor Dawn Gable experienced a life changing nine nights journeying with a dragon, Hyllivar, in a fantastic machine to nine magical worlds.

Riggs, Ransom. Miss Peregrine's home for peculiar children
Quirk, 2016.
This is a quirky fantasy tale of a young boy's quest to uncover the story behind his grandfather's dying words in very unusual circumstances. The fantasy tale reveals a community of very peculiar children locked in a time loop, and their struggles to overcome an attack from an unusual source.

Sedgwick, Marcus. Monsters we deserve
Zephyr, 2018.
As Byron, Polidori, and Mr and Mrs Shelley shelter from the unexpected weather, old ghost stories are read and new ghost stories imagined.

Taylor, Laini. Strange the Dreamer
The city of Weep has been cut off from the world and even those that remember the stories have forgotten the city's true name. It is Lazlo's obsession with the city which earns him a place on the expedition to save it when Eril-Fane (Godslayer) visits Zosma where Lazlo has worked as a junior librarian for the past seven years.

Thomas, Angie. On the come up
Bri's natural talent and determination to be a great rapper seem to be leading her to success, but hand in hand with that comes controversy and danger. The perils of social media have also to be navigated.

Van Allsburg, Chris. Mysteries of Harris Burdick
14 black-and-white drawings, each accompanied by a title and a caption will stimulate the imagination of the mystery of who is Harris Burdick and where did he disappear.

Williams, Mumu Mike. Kulimaya!: keep listening, everybody!
Kulimaya! tells of the life and work of Mumu Mike Williams, Anangu elder, healer, pastor, activist and artist, reminding everyone that the culture of the Anangu is and always has been strong.
Well-being and life skills literature lists

Critical thinking and problem solving

Picture books

Bland, Nicholas. Three billy goats gruff
Scholastic Press, 2019.
The three clever billy goats Gruff decide to try the grass that is greener on the other side of the bridge. But of course they have to get past the ugly troll who lives under the bridge.

Clayton, Sally Pomme. King with dirty feet
When the king decides to take a bath he cleans his teeth, scrubs his body and washes his hair but when he gets out of the river his feet remain dusty and dirty. He is appalled, and tells his servant, Gabu, that he must find a way of allowing his feet to keep clean on pain of death.

Hale, Shannon. Hale, Dean. Princess in black and the science fair scare
The Princess in Black has to use her problem solving skills to defeat the goo monster, with a lot of help from her friends.

Lawrence, Nina. Clever crow =: Wak Liya-Djambatj
A delightfully funny and rounded story of being clever, crow will make readers laugh as they watch his antics at getting food for his empty stomach.

McKenzie, Heath. How to build the perfect cubby house
Scholastic Press, 2019.
The story is structured as an instructional 14-step plan to building the perfect cubby house: ‘1. Have a plan, 2. Listen to others, 3. Allow plans to change, etc.’

Stanley, Rose. Tilly's big problem
Starfish Bay Children's Books, 2015
Tilly has a problem so big that she is unable to deal with it on her own. Her close friend, Ned, comes up with a plan to share the problem with a ‘big person’, and they list the likely candidates and come up with a test to see who is the most suitable to tell about the problem.

Williamson, John. John Williamson's My Dad snores
All children will recognise someone in their family with snores so loudly they keep the house awake and drown out the television. The family tries a number of remedies to halt the noise, like putting a peg on his nose, but he laughs, not seeing the problem at all.

Primary

Black, Holly. Clare Cassandra. Golden tower
Callum and his friends have to work together as a team and share problem solving techniques for the good of the community in this final book in the series.

Black, Jess. Mr Walker and the perfect mess
Mr Walker and his hotel family scramble to deliver an important function under the marquee whilst continuing regular services to guests. To make matters worse the staff need to organise a surprise farewell gift for their beloved groundskeeper, Josephine.

Eulberg, Elizabeth. Great Shelby Holmes and the coldest case
After being contacted by Tatiana, the coach of a world famous figure skater Jordan Nelson, Shelby and John are drawn into a highly complex case involving difficult codes and intimidating characters.
Well-being and life skills literature lists

Critical thinking and problem solving

Susie's mother signs her up for the talent show, much to her daughter's dismay. Susie is a problem-solver, analytical, she converses with George the class fish and likes playing with Bones the skeleton. Once again, this feisty girl needs to use her scientific skills, her creativity and resolve to stand up to her mother's demands.

Undercover is another brilliant read, complete with spy craft and code cracking, proving to be another winner for the preteen and young teen audience. Out of sight (2019) is another.

Bodhi and Emely find themselves alone on a desert island in the company of Guapo, an intelligent marine iguana, who joins the children on their quest to safety. Teacher’s notes are available on the publisher’s website.

Life in the Zinker family proves difficult for middle child Beatrice as everyone else likes to follow the rules and fit in. When her friend Lenny comes back from the Philippines she has changed and Beatrice has to come up with a solution to fit in.

The main characters, Maggie, Evie, Niki and Hamsa, are all best friends who love computers, coding, gaming and all things technology-based. With their classmates they have to create a SPACE-TACULAR production for the school community after a class unit of work on Space.

Secondary

Clementine Darcy's year 9 philosophy class isn't turning out to be what she expected. The teacher asks the students to simply write, whilst Clementine is hoping for answers to the big questions of life and wants to know 'Why am I here?' As she writes, she reflects upon her own life which isn't quite going in the direction she has hoped for either.

This picture book for older readers shows how the very same situation can be viewed quite differently depending on your perspective. Teacher notes are available on the publisher’s website.

Patterson, James. Genius experiment Young Arrow, 2019.
Orphan Max Einstein is squatting above the Central Park horse and carriage stables, attending college classes at NYU and supporting the homeless people who live in the building with her. Max has the ability to face new situations and creatively problem solve through her scientific understandings. Teacher’s notes are available on the publisher’s website.

Thomson, Sarah L. Eureka Key Bloomsbury, 2017.
When middle school puzzle master Sam and history wiz Martina win a contest for a summer trip across the US, they discover they've been drafted into something vastly more extraordinary. Joining another kid on the trip, Theo, a descendant of George Washington himself, they must follow clues to find seven keys left behind by the Founding Fathers.
Cultural diversity

Picture books

Fox, Mem. *I’m Australian too*
In rhyming stanzas Mem Fox outlines to small children the range of people who make up Australia. Teacher’s notes are available on the publisher’s website.

Fraser, Janine M. *Sarah’s two nativities*
Sarah is the daughter of Sadek and Anna, granddaughter of Ali and Azar, and granddaughter of Maria and Paul. In Sarah’s house the Bible and the Koran sit side by side on the shelf and she loves to hear the stories of the nativity from her grandmothers.

Kalu, Chi Mary. *Africa day*
Walking along some of the market stalls a boy and his mother breathe in the smells and tastes of African food: fried buns, jollof rice, bean pudding and Ethiopian coffee.

Mao, Xiao. *I love you*
Little Badger appreciates the small things in life by simply saying ‘I love you’ in a number of languages.

McKenzie, Heath. *How to build the perfect cubby house*
Scholastic Press, 2019.
This story is a happy celebration of family and togetherness. In depicting one family, it incorporates different cultures so that every child will see themselves and their own family represented.

Naitanui, Nic. *Little Nic’s big day*
Nic is worried about his first day at a new school and whether he will fit in. The story strongly promotes the theme of diversity and that being different is easily embraced at school.

Penfold, Alexandra. *All are welcome*
The words ‘All are welcome’, set the tone for the book as it shows in both text and illustrations the variety of children, families and adults that are involved in our schools.

Seymour, Jasmine. *Baby business*
When a child is born, the women of the Darug community take the baby into the bush, gathering leaves and mud to prepare a smoking ceremony that welcomes the new child into the community. Another is *Cooee mittigar: a story on Darug songlines* (2019).

Primary

Dreise, Gregg. *My culture and me*
Storyteller, musician and artist Gregg Dreise proudly presents his connections to country and celebrates his history, his Dreaming, and his Emu totem which can be found throughout his paintings. Teacher’s notes are available on the publisher’s website.

Dubosarsky, Ursula. *Blue cat*
Allen & Unwin, 2017. This beautifully written story of the dislocation of children through war reveals a young girl, Columba, intrigued by the new boy in her school, Ellery, a refugee from Europe who cannot speak. Teacher’s notes are available on the publisher’s website.
Well-being and life skills literature lists

Cultural diversity

When she helps new student Tien on her first day of school, Melek remembers how difficult it was for her, especially all the jokes about her hijab. Teacher’s notes are available on the author’s website.

Eight stories about the environment from Helen Milroy descended from the Palyku people of the Pilbara region of Western Australia, encourage people to more appreciate our shared heritage.

Marly, is the daughter of a Vietnamese couple living in Melbourne. The story is a delightful mix of Vietnamese customs surviving in their new home and an overlay of modern Australian culture seen through their young daughter.

The story of Carole Wilkinson's journey to Australia in the 1960's is revealed here for a primary audience to encourage their understanding of the trip made by many of the migrants coming to Australia after World War Two.

Secondary

Layla continually strives to find the right path, find her inner strength, and respect the values of her Muslim religion. There are some very poignant moments - of an Aboriginal teacher describing the oppression of her people, Layla’s own Sudanese family facing racial discrimination, and the sadness of another child struggling with their sexual identity.

This is a collection of short stories drawn from around Australia, from different walks of life, but all with a heart-felt story to share about what it is like to grow up Aboriginal in Australia. Teacher’s notes are available on the publisher’s website.

Set in Broome, Ubbby and her band of underdogs are battling the wealthy and ambitious pearling industry bully, Donappleton, and mysterious others while searching for Sai Fong, ‘a seemingly innocent Chinese girl’.

Twelve stories from a diversity of backgrounds, and a wide range of experiences but with one thing in common, the writers are all Muslim people growing up in Australia are contained in this book of short stories. Teacher’s notes are available on the publisher’s website.

Azra is a bright Pakistani girl, living in Sydney, and she dreams of going to university, but her uncle plans to marry her to an older cousin she has never met. Teacher’s notes are available on the publisher’s website.
Well-being and life skills literature lists

Depression

Picture books

Browne, Anthony. Willy and the Cloud
Willy has a dark cloud following him, no matter what he does to try and get rid of it. When he goes to the park, everyone else is sitting in the sun but he shivers under the cloud. He tries to work out how to make it leave, but nothing works until he comes up with a solution to banish it.

Carnavas, Peter. Blue Whale Blues
Scholastic, 2015.
When Penguin hears Whale singing the blues, he asks what is wrong. He helps him with his problem, but later, he hears Whale singing again. The problem has returned, but Penguin sticks with Whale, finding a solution.

Eland, Eva. When sadness comes to call
Sadness comes to visit a small child unexpectedly. The idea is to embrace Sadness, make it feel loved and nurtured and to do things with it that might make them both happier.

Fenton, Corinne. Chasing Shadows
Ford St, 2014.
When Dad brings home a puppy, Beth shows complete disinterest, and looking at the illustrations by Hannah Sommerville, the reader will understand the nature of Beth’s coolness, and see her bordering on a depressive state. Teacher’s notes are available from the publisher.

Fussell, Sandy. Sad, the Dog
With owners who simply feed him, wash him and give him shelter, Sad the dog names himself. He is abandoned when the couple moves and so he waits for someone to love him as he wants to be loved.

Gallagher, Heather. Happy Pants Why is Mummy so Sad?
The delight of a new baby in the house is dampened by Mother’s postpartum depression. The child searches for the happy pants she wore when pregnant and outside help with the whole family involved nurse her back to health.

Inverarity, Gina. The Brown Dog
When the brown dog appears at his house, Henry knows it usually only stays for a day or so, then goes off somewhere else. But this time he stays, keeping Henry at home, keeping him from seeing his friends, keeping him in bed.

Maclear, Kyo. Virginia Wolf
Virginia just wants to be left alone, she bares her teeth and her ears grow as she becomes a wolf, skulking in bed and ignoring all around her.

Miller, David. Big and Me
Ford St., 2018.
Big and Small are machines that work together but some days Big goes a bit wobbly. With the assistance of The Boss and Mechanic, Big gets some medicine to help him get better.

Vasiliu, Michelle. Together things
The little girl loved to do things with her dad. But now that's all changed because her dad is sick with an illness that no one except a special doctor can see.
Well-being and life skills literature lists

Depression

Walker, Anna. Mr Huff
Poor old Bill just can't seem to get rid of the cloud that hangs over his day. Right from the start things go wrong. He loses a sock, his cereal is soggy, and he spills the milk as he trips over his bag. He learns to accept that Mr Huff is there and it is up to him about what impact he has.

Primary

Colfer, Eoin. Artemis Fowl: The Atlantis Complex
Penguin, 2019 (c2010).
All is not well with Artemis. He is suffering from Atlantis Complex which means he counts by fives and sevens, has OCD and is most depressed. The seventh book in this highly original fantasy series.

Doyle, Roddy. Brilliant
Macmillan, 2014
When Uncle Ben’s business fails, Gloria and Raymond overhear the adults talking of the black dog which has settled on Ben’s back. The children decide to do something about it.

Hilton, Nette. Sprite Downberry
Angus & Robertson, 2008.
A heart tugging tale of a young girl coping with her mother’s mood swings and increasingly violent behaviour, and taking her younger brother to get help.

Rushby, Allison. The mulberry tree
With her father’s depression resulting from his perceived part in the death of two people back in Australia, Immy finds it hard to maintain patience with his illness. Her anger boils, and she realises that the mulberry tree in the garden too has issues and is angry, and she must find out why.

Weetman, Nova. Sick bay
UQP, 2019.
The Sick Bay is the location where Meg finds solace from the world, but also the place that feels more home than home since the death of her father and the slide into deep depression for her mother. Meg is constantly hungry and needs to cope with far more than just school. Her only friend is her brown paper bag - ready to be used in case of a panic attack.

Wilson, Jacqueline. The Illustrated Mum
Dolphin and her older sister, Star live with their Mum, Marigold in their small London flat. Marigold has bi polar disorder and loves tattoos, something which embarrasses Dolphin.

Secondary

Butters, Simon. The hounded
On his fifteenth birthday, Monty is at rock bottom. Ignored by his parents, bullied at school, and with a brain that's prone to going walkabout, he's all by himself. Until he meets the black dog for the first time. It's just like any other dog, except that only Monty can see it.

Christian, Claire. Beautiful mess
Winner of the Text Prize, this is the story of Ava and Gideon, adolescents who live in their own worlds because the outside world is not one with which they can easily identify, or indeed like. Teacher's notes are available on the publisher’s website. Year 10 up.
Well-being and life skills literature lists

Depression

Khorram, Adib. *Darius the Great is not okay*  
Suffering from chronic depression and bullied at school in America, Darius isn’t sure how he’ll get on in Iran when his mother decides to visit her father and relatives.

Larkin, John. *The pause*  
A most remarkable story of one boy’s pain. About to step in front of a train as it goes through the station, he pauses, and in that moment reveals all that has brought him to this point.

Pan, Emily X.R. *Astonishing colour of after*  
Orion, 2018.  
Leigh’s mother commits suicide and leaves very little clue as to why. As far as Leigh knew, everything seemed normal. Or was it?

Peet, Mal. *Good boy*  
Barrington Stoke, 2019.  
Sandie has battled depression for years with the help of her pet dog Rabbie. But when Rabbie dies, the monster haunts her in her sleep.

Thrash, Maggie. *Lost soul, be at peace*  
In this graphic novel, following *Honor girl*, Maggie is severely depressed and failing at school, and her parents seem to be oblivious.

Tregonning, Mel. *Small things*  
A picture book about depression as the child goes through life thinking he is very much alone, concerns and worries crowding in. The author killed herself before she finished this extraordinary book and it was completed by Shaun Tan.

Valentine, Jenny. *Broken soup*  
Rowan’s mum is a vegetable, filling herself with medication to stop the pain of her son’s death, while Rowan keeps the house in order, cares for her 6 year old sister and shops and feeds the family. A very real story of a woman overcome by depression.

Valentine, Jenny. *Ant Colony*  
When Sam runs away from home and comes to London, he wants to be alone, leaving what has happened behind him. The wonderful story of a depressed boy slowly brought to life by the various residents in the flats where he lives.

Vizzini, Ned. *It's kind of a funny story*  
Hyperion, 2010.  
When 15-year-old Craig Gilner is accepted by a prestigious Manhattan high school, the pressure becomes taxing, and he finds himself battling depression.

Weetman, Nova. *Secrets we share*  
Sequel to: *The secrets we keep*, 2016. Clem has a secret. Her mother, Sarah, suffering from depression has returned home after some months in care. They live in a tiny flat, waiting for their new house to be built replacing their home which was burnt down twelve months before after Mum left a candle burning. Teacher’s notes are available on the publisher’s website.
Well-being and life skills literature lists

Empathy

Picture books

Battersby, Katherine. Little wing
Little Wing lived on a small island and when a trunk filled with books washed up on his island, he read them all. They taught him about the world. But there was one problem. Nowhere in all of his books was there something like him. Teacher’s notes are available from the publisher.

Boyle, Josie. Mrs White and the red desert
A group of desert children invite their school teacher, Mrs White, home for dinner to show her why their homework is always grubby. Teacher’s notes are available.

Fox, Mem. Wilfrid Gordon MacDonald Partridge
A moving tale about a special relationship between a young boy, Wilfrid, and an old woman, Miss Delacourt, whose memory is fading. Wilfrid collects objects together to remind her of her hidden memories.

Graham, Bob. How to heal a broken wing
No one except Will notices the injured bird on the pavement, so he takes it home and cares for it. Teacher’s notes are available on the publisher’s website.

Lane, Victoria. West, Kayleen. Celia and Nonna
Ford St, 2014.
When Nonna moves to a nursing home, Celia realises that she can no longer stay overnight with her Nonna, having her own room and special drawer. But she resolves to help Nonna adjust to her new surroundings. Teacher’s notes are available on the publisher’s website.

Milner, Kate. It’s a no-money day
Barrington Stoke, 2019.
Mum works really hard, but today there is no money left and no food in the cupboards. Mum feels ashamed that they have to rely on the kindness of others, but her young daughter knows that there are still good things like reading and drawing and even the charity shop.

Palacio, R.J. We’re all wonders
We’re all wonders with its simple, bold statements and colourful, graphic illustrations introduces Auggie and his dog Daisy to younger readers.

Roy, James. Newest pet
Everybody is fearful at times, but Chook acknowledges that fear and tries to overcome it. He is also a very caring friend, knowing that it is very important that Joe is not left out on Pet Day.

Primary

Bacon, Lee. Last human
The world is ruled by machines as humans had become extinct thirty years ago. Everything runs well for robot XR_935 until he discovers a human girl alive who needs his help.

Bate, Helen. Me and Mrs Moon
Mrs Moon picks up Maisie and Dylan after school and they enjoy their time together until she begins to act in strange ways.
Well-being and life skills literature lists

Empathy

Bruton, Catherine. *No ballet shoes in Syria*
Aya is eleven years old refugee from Syria and her ballet teacher believes that she could win a prestigious scholarship. But things are tough as her father has been separated from the family and they have to fight to stay in Britain.

Craft, Jerry. *New kid*
Jordan Banks loves to draw and wants to go to art school, but his parents send him to an academic school, where he is one of the few kids of colour in his class.

Kelly, Deborah. *Thing about Oliver*
Life is difficult for Tilly as she lives as the ‘ignored’ capable child because her single-mother’s attention must so often be directed to her autistic and non-verbal younger brother, Oliver. Teacher’s notes are available from the publisher.

Lester, Cas. *Do you speak chocolate?*
Jaz has found the best way to make friends with new girl Nadima, who doesn't speak any English - by offering her a chocolate bar.

Lewis, Gill. *Closest thing to flying*
Samira and her mother came to England as refugees when she was four years old, and she doesn't know where to call home. When she discovers a diary from 1891, she finds inspiration in the actions of Hen, who was brave enough to fight for her place in the world.

McDonald, Meme. Pryor, Boori. *My Girragundji*
A little frog hops through the louvre windows into a boy’s room one night and tells him that she will always be there to help him. Teacher’s notes are available on the publisher’s website.

Mian, Zanib. *Accidental trouble magnet*
When Omar’s family decide to move house, he has to deal with new classmates at school, a class bully and a neighbour who doesn’t like Muslims.

Millard, Glenda. *Layla Queen of Hearts*
*Kingdom of Silk* series. ABC, 2013.
The fabulous *Kingdom of Silk* series continues with Layla organising a Seniors’ Day Event including aged people from the local nursing home.

Rauf, Onjali Q. *The boy at the back of the class*
Orion, 2018.
Ahmet is a refugee who has run away from a war and sits at the back of the class. Friendship and tolerance towards others permeate the story. Teacher’s notes are available from the publisher’s website.

Secondary

Atta, Dean. *Black flamingo*
Hachette, 2019.
A boy comes to terms with his identity as a mixed-race gay teen - then at university he finds his wings as a drag artist, The Black Flamingo.
Well-being and life skills literature lists

Empathy

Betts, A.J. Zac and Mia
Text, 2016.
Zac is in hospital undergoing another round of cancer treatments when he hears the girl in the next room. She is loud and feisty and plays her music very loudly. Zac makes contact with Mia by tapping on the wall and from there a friendship grows that neither expects. Teacher’s notes are available on the publisher’s website.

Carless, Victoria. Dream Walker
Lothian, 2017.
Dream walking enables Lucy to enter the dreams of others, and she gets a glimpse of the realities and experiences of the people who knew her mother at the time of her death.

Christian, Claire. Beautiful mess
Ava and Gideon are two adolescents who live in their own worlds because the outside world is not one with which they can easily identify, or indeed like. Teacher’s notes are available on the publisher’s website.

Crossan, Sarah. Toffee
Bloomsbury, 2019.
Allison has run away from home and hides out in an old shed in the garden of an abandoned house. But Maria, an elderly woman who has dementia lives there and thinks that Allison is her old friend Toffee.

Desjardins, India. Story about cancer: (with a happy ending)
For the past few years, a teenage girl has been treated for leukaemia and this story looks at her bandanna and her many hospital visits.

Drews, C.G. Boy who steals houses
Hachette, 2019.
Sam is only fifteen but is trying to make a life for himself and his autistic older brother, Avery. They are homeless and he survives by breaking into empty houses when their owners are away, until one day he's caught out when a family returns home.

Khan, Muhammad. Kick the moon
Ilyas Mian wants to draw comic-book heroes, but instead he's got exams and work in his father's shop. When he meets Kelly Matthews they bond over their love of comic book art but the leader of his group of friends threatens to spoil his happiness.

Rhodes, Jewell Parker. Ghost boys
Twelve-year-old Jerome is shot by a police officer who mistakes his toy gun for a real threat. As a ghost, he observes the devastation that's been unleashed on his family and community in the wake of what they see as an unjust and brutal killing.

Shusterman, Neal. Scythe
Citra and Rowan are two teens who are the apprentices of Scythe Faraday, one of the Scythes who ends life in a society where hunger, poverty and even death itself has disappeared. This is the only way to control the population size and the pair have to learn how to choose and glean a life. Teacher’s notes are available from the publisher’s website.

Thakur, Sophia. Somebody give this heart a pen
A collection of short and memorable poems that look at going to school, home life, falling in love and out of love.
Well-being and life skills literature lists

Friendship

Picture books

Asensio, Albert. The blue bench
As seasons come and go, different people use the blue bench, different animals appear in the trees' branches, and a variety of people walk past. Teacher notes are available on the publisher's website.

Blabey, Aaron. Pearl Barley and Charlie Parsley
Pearl Barley and Charlie Parsley are different in every way, but are still the best of friends and know how to support each other. Activities are available from Read Australia.

Browne, Anthony. Voices in the park
Four different voices tell their own versions of the same walk in the park, exploring friendship and alienation.

Donaldson, Julia. Go-Away bird
In this story of friendship, of people needing others to survive, the Go-Away bird tells all the other birds who come to roost in her tree to go away.

Ferry, Beth. Stick and Stone
When Pinecone comes along, poking fun, Stick sticks up for his new friend, and a deep attachment develops ... even if they are a stick and a stone.

King, Stephen Michael. Three
Scholastic Press, 2019.
Fern and her family take Three in without question, he readily becomes part of the family, eating pancakes on Saturday, dressing up with the brother and singing with Fern. He has filled a spot in their lives just as he has found a family to call his own.

McKinnon, Heidi. Baz & Benz
Baz asks Benz to confirm that they are the best of friends, and when Benz tells him that yes they are the best of friends, Baz then details a few things which might make a difference to their friendship. Teacher notes are available on the publisher's website.

Watts, Frances. My friend Fred
The lovely dachshund, Fred stares out at the reader, his big eyes melting every heart as his friend tells the reader about his habits. Teacher notes are available on the publisher's website.

Primary

Arena, Felice. The Besties to the rescue
Ruby and Oliver work together to rescue a baby bird. They are children who encourage each other's interests and embrace their differences and friendship to work together to solve problems.

Barkla, Charlotte. Edie's Experiments: How to Make Friends
This is an entertaining and humorous story about a young girl, Edie Baxter, who is STEM obsessed, tries to fit in at a new school and make friends.
Well-being and life skills literature lists

Friendship

Cottrell Boyce, Frank. Runaway robot
When Alfie finds Eric, a one-legged robot in need of a friend, at the airport Lost Property counter, he decides to take him home with him. The two best friends help each other.

DiCamillo, Kate. Beverly, right here
When Beverly, aged fourteen, leaves home, catching a lift with a neighbour after the burial of her beloved dog, Buddy, she has little idea of what she will do, but she meets people who help her out. Teacher notes are available on the publisher's website.

Foxlee, Karen. Ophelia and the marvellous boy
The Marvellous Boy is a ten year old child who has been frozen in time by wizards. After being the much-loved friend of the King for years, he is locked away in a bare room by the wicked new Queen. A rescuer is needed and Ophelia Jane Worthington-Whittard arrives to help.

Janu, Tamsin. Winston and the wondrous Wooba gymnastics club
How is Winston going to help Macy resign herself to living in the tiny town, and make progress towards her dream an Olympic gymnast, while also saving the Big Bread and the economy of his home town? These are big challenges and Winston won't be able to rise to them alone.

Kinney, Jeff. Diary of an awesome friendly kid: Rowley Jefferson's journal
Thanks to Rowley, middle school readers will be finding out a lot sooner than most kids, that things (and people) are not always what they seem.

Mackay, Gregory. Adventures of Anders
A compilation of three stories about Anders, a very appealing hyperactive yet easily scared squirrel, who makes friends easily and has a lot of adventures. Teacher notes are available on the publisher's website.

Mass, Wendy. Stead, Rebecca. Bob
Livy has just returned to Australia to see her grandmother after a five years absence. She can't remember the strange little creature, dressed in a chicken suit, who is living in the cupboard in her room. His name is Bob and he tells Livy that she promised that she would help him find his home. Teacher notes are available on the publisher's website.

Murray, Martine. Henrietta and the perfect night
When Henrietta sees Olive Higgie crying in the classroom, she goes on a rescue mission and finds that you only need one friend in a room full of strangers to feel perfectly happy.

O'Loghlin, James. Very popular me
Sam is still trying to make friends and learn the intricacies of the school classroom and student dynamics. He is faced with many dilemmas as he deals with his sudden popularity and later with the devastation of becoming the teacher's pet.

Riddle, Tohby. Nobody owns the moon
The quick witted fox has adapted well to life in the city. He has changed his name to Clive Prendergast, and has learnt to eat a variety of foods, living in a one roomed apartment in a busy part of the town. His friend Humphrey has not adapted as well and needs help.
Well-being and life skills literature lists

Friendship

Williams, Marcia. **Cloud boy**
Angie Moon keeps a diary while her lifetime friend of the same age, Harry next door, contracts a serious illness. Angie records her growing anger at what she construes as friend Harry’s obstinate refusal to get better. Teacher’s notes are available at the publisher’s website.

Wyatt, Edwina. **Secrets of Magnolia Moon**
Magnolia Moon’s creative friendship with Imogen May meets a hurdle when Imogen announces that she is moving away. Who will she share lunch time with and who will understand her quirky conundrums? Teacher notes are available on the publisher’s website.

Secondary

Nunn, Malla. **When the ground is hard**
Nunn describes the hierarchy of the elite boarding school and the malicious gossip and put-downs designed to keep people in their places. Adele has always been a part of that. But now she finds herself sharing with someone who doesn't play the game. Lottie is strong and tough, and she fights back. Gradually Adele finds herself being challenged by Lottie’s ideas and the way she says what she thinks. Teacher notes are available on the publisher’s website.

Nwosu, Poppy. **Making friends with Alice Dyson**
Alice Dyson is a quiet girl trying to concentrate on studying for her final year of high school. Then she meets Teddy Taualai who won't leave her alone. A story about friendship, first love, and change. Teacher notes are available on the publisher’s website.

Rowell, Rainbow. **Pumpkinheads**
Josiah and Deja are good friends and are on their last shift at their holiday jobs at the Pumpkin Patch before heading off to college. The story follows Deja's attempts to ensure Josiah resolves his long unrequited crush on another girl who works in the park before the night ends.

Watson, Renee. **Watch us rise**
Bloomsbury, 2019.
Jasmine and Chelsea want to make a difference - now. They are frustrated with how women are treated and each support the other as their essays and poems go viral online.

Wein, Elizabeth. **Rose under fire**
Electric Monkey, 2013.
In this companion novel to the award winning *Code Name Verity*, the story revolves around Rose Justice who is a young American pilot, working for the British Air Transport Auxiliary. Crashing the airplane she is captured by the Germans and discovers what it is like to survive with the help of friends, in Ravensbruck, a notorious women's concentration camp.

Yoon, David. **Frankly in love**
Frank's parents emigrated from Korea, and have pretty much one big rule for Frank - he must date only Korean girls. But Frank has fallen for Brit, who is smart, beautiful and white.
Well-being and life skills literature lists

Grief

Picture books

Brown, Helen. Cleo & Rob
Sam wants a kitten for his birthday and finally convinces his mother to let him have one. The kitten is not ready to leave his own mother yet. While they are waiting Sam dies tragically and his brother Rob is left bereft and unable to cope with the loss. But with the arrival of Cleo the kitten Rob finds the solace he has been searching for.

Coelho, Joseph. If all the world were
This is a charming story of loss and grief, of a young child remembering the grandfather who has died through memories of what they did together.

Lagercrantz, Rose. Where Dani goes, happy follows
Dani's father is again sad over the death of her mother and decides to leave Dani with her grandparents and head back to Rome to see his parents and family. Dani is not happy about this situation but as always tries to make the best of it.

Little, Melissa. Yesterday you were here
Grief is never easy and this is a thought provoking book, written in a simple way that makes it easy to read with children to help them understand loss.

McGeachin, Jess. Fly
Lucy and Dad are by themselves and they are trying to get over the death of Lucy's mother. Lucy is a little girl who is very good at fixing things and when she finds a bird with a broken wing she believes that she can find a way to help it fly although Dad says its wing is broken and it won't be able to fly again. An activity pack is available on the publisher's website.

Perkin, Jayde. Mum's jumper
When she and Dad go through Mum's things a young girl finds a favourite jumper, and puts it on. She wears it for a long time, and when Dad washes it, he tells her that grief is like that jumper, she will grow into it, and the jumper will get smaller.

Sillett, Devon. Saying goodbye to Barkley
Olivia and Barkley are best friends who do everything together. When he dies she is inconsolable until she comes up with a plan.

Primary

Harry, Pip. Little wave
When a Manly school decides to host a country class for a visit to the seaside, the children involved all face challenges. Noah loves to surf, but doesn't know how to stop his friend from bullying him. Lottie lives with her grief stricken father who hoards enormous amounts of junk and Jack is a great cricketer, but often doesn't turn up to school and has family problems. Teacher's notes are available on the publisher's website.

Lai, Remy. Pie in the sky
Jingwen enlists the help of his brother to bake the cakes that he and his father, who has died, had planned to sell, even though his mother has forbidden him to use the oven when she is not at home. Teacher's notes are available on the publisher's website.
Well-being and life skills literature lists

Grief

Marwood, Lorraine. Leave taking
UQP, 2018.
When his mum and dad decide to leave their family farm after the death of his younger sister, Leah, Toby finds that it is hard to say goodbye to everything that has meant something special to him and his sister.

McKinlay, Meg. Catch a falling star
Frankie Avery is left looking after her young brother Newt (short for Newton) while her mother works very long hours as a way to forget the death of her husband, which is never mentioned in the house. Teacher's notes are available on the publisher's website.

Oppel, Kenneth. Inklings
Ethan, his father and sister are very upset about the loss of Ethan's mother. When his class must create a graphic novel magical ink jumps out of his father's sketchbook and Inkling begins to make sketches. Teacher's notes are available on the publisher's website.

Schmidt, Gary D. Pay attention, Carter Jones
Carter Jones and his family, mother and three younger sisters, need help in dealing with the death of Carter's brother and the absence of his father. The services of the Butler, an endowment by his grandfather, is just what the family needs to help organise the chaos and also bring some purpose to Carter's life.

Weetman, Nova. Sick Bay
UQP, 2019.
The Sick Bay is the location where Meg finds solace from the world, but also the place that feels more home than home since the death of her father and the slide into deep depression for her mother. Teacher's notes are available on the publisher's website.

Worland, Steve. Go!
15-year-old Jack has just arrived in Busselton with his Mum and finds himself at a party at the local Go-Kart track. This unexpected opportunity unleashes a fast-paced adventure utilising his natural tendency to race fast through life. Along the journey he finds friends to support his new go-karting obsession and also learns to deal with grief and the 'red-mist' of competition.

Secondary

Almond, David. Joe Quinn's poltergeist
Davie is on the cusp of moving from childhood into his teen years. He is interested in Josephine Minto, and isn't sure of his beliefs about God and ghosts. When Joe Quinn boasts of having a poltergeist in his house and Davie sees bread and other objects flying through the air, deep down there is a hope that ghosts do exist as that would mean that his little sister might be one.

Atkins, Clare. Between us
Anahita is an Iranian asylum-seeker brought from Nauru with her mother and 3 year old brother Arash to temporary detention in Darwin, because her mother is expecting a baby and is suffering from pre-eclampsia. Ana is haunted by the memories of something that happened to her in Iran, something she can't talk about, but coming to Darwin means that at last she can go to school, learn English and study her favourite subject, Science. Teacher's notes are available on the publisher's website.
Well-being and life skills literature lists

Grief

Bashford, Taryn. Astrid notes
Pan Macmillan Australia, 2019.
As Astrid Bell, classical singer, secret pop songwriter, grapples with career-threatening stage fright, and Jacob Skalicky, Indie singer, loses his bandmates to a fatal accident, their paths intertwine as they help each other find their feet.

Collins, Orlagh. All the invisible things
Bloomsbury, 2019.
Vetty's world changes dramatically when her mother dies, and her father takes her and her sister to live closer to their aunt to make life a little easier for them all while they come to terms with their loss. This book explores coming of age, bisexuality, sexuality, friendship and grief.

Fox, Helena. How it feels to float
Biz has learnt to float through her day-to-day life, appearing to be an ordinary teenage girl. Biz is particularly close to her dad, who sits on the end of her bed and tells her stories about his life. She can't tell anyone this though, as her dad died when she was seven, and neither can she tell anyone about her worries. Teacher's notes are available on the publisher's website.

Kernot, Sharon. Art of taxidermy
Aged eleven, Lotte falls in love with death. She soon has a collection of bones, skins and feathers in her bedroom. Her father is tolerant but her aunt, their housekeeper, is appalled by the smell and the unusual nature of the hobby. As the novel progresses the reader learns that death has laid a heavy hand on the family, and that Lotte's interest in death is about preserving both memories and objects. Teacher's notes are available on the publisher's website.

Okine, Matt. Being black 'n chicken, and chips
Hachette Australia, 2019.
Written by Ghanaian-born, Australian stand-up comedian, Matt Okine, this book makes for a hilarious read, while at the same time dealing with serious subjects such as child death, cancer and racism.

Slee, Tim. Taking Tom Murray home
When the bank forecloses on Tom Murray's dairy farm he is determined to go down in a blaze - literally. He sells off his stock, empties the house of his family's possessions and burns it down. Unfortunately Tom is trapped in the fire probably due to his weak heart problem and loses his life. His widow Dawn refuses to allow his death be in vain and decides to take his body to Melbourne for burial thinking the several hundred kilometre 'funeral procession' from their small rural town will offer people pause for thought on the plight of so many struggling country folk.

Watson, Renee. What Momma left me
Bloomsbury, 2019.
Serenity and her younger brother Danny lose both parents as a consequence of domestic violence. Serenity begins journaling her healing in the home of their maternal grandparents. A new start in a new community forces them to look outside themselves to develop symbiotic relationships with wider family, parishioners, students and hardest of all - professional counsellors.
Well-being and life skills literature lists

Happiness

Picture books

Elvira, a wedge-tailed eagle from the city, forms an unlikely friendship with a country mouse named Pookie. Together they journey to the Pilliga Forest in search of Pookie's family, and Elvira looks for the secret of happiness.

When Samuel goes shopping with his mother he sees lots of people who are looking miserable so he blows them kisses to cheer them up.

Two little girls are very happy as they skip, swing, jump, climb, hop, bounce, twirl, wriggle and laugh at the park.

Happy encourages young readers to explore their emotions and the beautiful world around them.

Finally realizing that there's no place like one's natural habitat, Sunny returns home to a joyous celebration after travelling far from home.

A joyful and uplifting picture book about finding happiness in the smallest of things, and then passing it on to others.

Jenkins, Lynette Fay. Lonergan, Kirrili. *Ollie's treasure: happiness is easy to find if you just know where to look* EK, 2017.
This is a story about finding joy in the simple things that are all around us just by using our senses and taking notice of what it always there.

Cry: happy or sad. Wailing or glad - how do you feel today?

Fox and Porcupine celebrate their friendship and happiness in this joyful rhyming picture book.

A wide reaching tale of finding happiness wherever you are.

Three little mice. Three very different houses. But which is the happiest home?
Well-being and life skills literature lists

Happiness

Primary

Branford, Anna. *Violet Mackerel's formal occasion* Illus. by Sarah Davis. Walker, 2015. When Mum loses her box of knitted toys Violet decides to make her happy by giving her a special party.

Coblentz, Catherine Cate. *The blue cat of Castle Town* Dover Publication, 2017. This is the story of the blue cat sent by the river to restore the days of Bright Enchantment, when there was beauty and peace and contentment in people's hearts.


Hart, Miranda. *The girl with the lost smile* Hodder Children's Books, 2017. The author takes us on a magical, adventurous journey that celebrates the imagination and the strength of true friendship as Chloe Long looks for her lost smile.

Mears, Gillian. *The cat with the coloured tail* Walker Books, 2015. Together Mr Hooper and the cat change lives and bring happiness as they journey with the ice cream van. Teacher's notes are available on the publisher's website.

Nicol, Lisa. *Dr Boogaloo and the girl who lost her laughter* Random House Australia, 2017. Blue was no ordinary girl, and what was truly extraordinary about her was the fact that she hadn't laughed for 712 days. But according to Dr Boogaloo, music can cure anything. Teacher's notes are available on the publisher's website.

Secondary

Jozefkowicz, Ewa. *Mystery of the colour thief* Head of Zeus, 2018. This is the story of a girl called Izzy, a cygnet called Spike and the power of feathers gathered from strong winds. It is a beautifully written debut about hope and happiness.

Montgomery, L.M. *The blue castle* CreateSpace Independent Publishing Platform, 2018. Valancy Sirling lives a drab life with her overbearing mother and elderly Cousin Stickles. Her only escape is the fantasy world of her Blue Castle in Spain. When diagnosed with a serious illness, she discovers a new world of love and happiness.

Newton, Robert. *Promise me happy* Penguin Random House Australia, 2019. Nate's had it tough and has spent time in juvie. When he meets Gem she will change everything he knows about himself. Teacher's notes are available from the publisher.

Yaxley, Richard. *The happiness quest* Omnibus, 2018. Tillie Bassett is sad, and she doesn't understand why. Her parents and friends suggest very different remedies. But the answer may lie in finding the nature of happiness.
Well-being and life skills literature lists

Honesty

Picture books

Blabey, Aaron. Pig the fibber
Scholastic Press, 2015.
When Pig does something wrong he blames Trevor. Teacher notes are available on the publisher’s website.

Bunting, Laura. Liafbird
Laura and Philip Bunting have combined once again to produce an entertaining and thoughtful tale of what could happen if you continuously tell lies or fabricate the truth.

Cook, Julia. Lying up a storm
National Center for Youth Issues, 2015.
Whenever Levi doesn't like the truth, he kinda, sorta makes up other stuff to say. One day his mother explains to him that telling lies will damage the trust of his friends and make him very sad.

Dickson, John. Norton took something
Norton secretly takes something special from his sister April, who devastated by the loss of her lucky charm, becomes very sad. Norton wants everyone to be happy again but he does not want his sister 'to see him as someone-who-steals-things'.

Hopgood, Tim. Truth according to Arthur
Bloomsbury, 2016.
Arthur has ridden his brother's bike, something he has been told not to do, and as a result, scratched his parents' car and damaged the bike. He is at a loss to decide what to do. He practises many stories on his friends: he tries bending the truth, and stretching the truth, of hiding the truth or just ignoring it.

Klassen, Jon. I want my hat back
Bear want his hat back and asks many of the animals in his area if they have seen his hat.

Tazhibi, Mahni. The boy who cried wolf
When the shepherd boy lies about seeing a wolf to get attention, people are not impressed.

Primary

Heffernan, John. Naveed
Following the death of his much loved father, Naveed, a young Afghani boy, shoulders the responsibility of caring for his mother and younger sister, Anoosheh. Despite their lowly income and existence, the family members display strong ethics and positive natures with honesty, hard work, generosity of spirit, loyalty and resilience being traits they have in abundance. Teacher notes are available on the publisher's website.

Mitchell, Tom. How to rob a bank
Fifteen-year-old Dylan accidentally burns down the house of the girl he's trying to impress and the idea that he could somehow gift Beth the money her family needs gives him the motivation to rob a bank. Teacher notes are available on the publisher's website.

Perry, Chrissie. Oops, I've told a little lie!
Amelie lies about having a dog and finds herself in trouble.
**Well-being and life skills literature lists**

**Honesty**

Thompson, Lisa. *Boy who fooled the world*  
Scholastic, 2020.  
Cole is the toast of the international art world when a painting he made is sold for thousands of pounds. But he has a secret — he did not make the painting and the lie he told has spiralled out of control.

**Secondary**

Gray, Julia. *Little liar*  
There's a new art assistant at Nora's school, and he's crossed a line. Nora decides to teach him a lesson he won't forget. But not everything goes quite to plan, and Nora needs an escape.

Heath, Jack. *Truth app*  
Scholastic Australia, 2018.  
Jarli is a coding Whiz-kid who has just developed a 'Truth-detecting' app and released the code for assessment by others and it instantly created waves around the world.

Keplinger, Kody. *That's not what happened*  
When Sarah's parents announce they are going to publish a book about their daughter's brave sacrifice in a school shooting, Lee realises she must tell the true story even if it is not one people want to hear.

Lowry, Lois. *Messenger*  
As one of the few people able to travel through the dangerous Forest, Matty must deliver the message of Village's closing and try to convince Seer's daughter to return with him before it is too late.

Shusterman, Neal. *Scythe*  
Citra and Rowan are two teens who have been chosen to be the apprentices of Scythe Faraday, one of the Scythes who ends life in a society where hunger, poverty and even death itself has disappeared. This is the only way to control the population size and the pair have to learn how to choose and glean a life. Teacher notes are available on the publisher's website.

Wein, Elizabeth. *Pearl thief*  
Hyperion, 2017  
When the curator sent from Oxford to catalogue the estate's trove vanishes, Julia begins to take a closer interest in the artefacts and the man's disappearance. Suspicion falls on the Travellers but Julie is determined to clear their name and find the missing pearls.
Well-being and life skills literature lists

Hope

Picture books

Castles, Jennifer. Say yes: a story of friendship, fairness and a vote for hope
The story of the 1967 referendum which gave Aboriginal people the right to be included in the census as well as the right to a federal government making laws on their behalf is given in this non-fiction story told through the eyes of two friends. Teacher’s notes are available on the publisher’s website.

Cummings, Phil. Devries Shane. Ride, Riccardo, Ride!
Ricardo lives in a small mountain village in Italy, within a close community. His father teaches him to ride his bike and he can often be seen riding through the village but one day shadows appear. This wonderful book extolls the persistence of the human spirit, the perseverance of humanity in overcoming the worst of times to look forward to a brighter future. Teacher’s notes are available on the publisher’s website.

DiCamillo, Kate. La la la: a story of hope
The young girl on the front cover loves to sing, but wants to share her singing with someone else. She is hesitant, looking longingly at her front door, and eventually moves through the door into the world outside. Here it is golden and light filled.

Fraillon, Zana. Wisp: a story of hope
This tale of finding hope within the soulless confines of a refugee camp will melt the hardest of hearts. Idris is a young boy who has spent his entire life in such a camp, where hope has been eaten away by the years spent behind wire fences. Teacher’s notes are available on the publisher’s website.

French, Jackie. Drought
Scholastic Press, 2018.
The environmental disaster of drought and its emotional impact are described but a ray of hope is given where truckloads of food, clothes and books are taken to the outback.

Hutchings, Maggie. Unicorn!
When Luka gets really sick and makes a wish for a unicorn, it is not so easy for her best friend to keep her promise of making it come true.

Philp, Nicola. Grain of hope
A dual story, told on facing pages, of a dog and a refugee girl whose stories mirror each other, until the devastating end. A tale of hope, asylum seeking and a record of Australia’s treatment of refugees.

Ryan, Cherri. Spirit
A powerfully emotive tale of trying again is told in spare prose, augmented with detailed digital illustrations, sure to attract younger children alive with curiosity about their world, and unwilling to give in at the first hurdle.

Tanner, Lian. Ella and the ocean
A family from a drought stricken farm go to the ocean where they are rejuvenated, ready to go back home and wait for the rain to come. Teacher’s notes are available on the publisher’s website.
Well-being and life skills literature lists

Hope

Wild, Margaret. **Feather**
Illus. by Freya Blackwood. Little Hare, 2018.
When a great feather drifts from the leaden sky, two children recognise its extraordinariness and take it to the village for its protection. The villagers, however, want to encase it, upon which the feather loses its radiance. The children take it home and care for it through the night and in the morning it is again radiant.

Primary

Fitzgerald, Sarah Moore. **Apple tart of hope**
Orion Children's Books, 2015.
Meg and Stevie are determined to find out what happened to Oscar Dunleavy, who used to make the world's most perfect apple tarts, and is missing, presumed dead. They are determined to never give up hope.

Greenwood, Mark. **Happiness box: a wartime book of hope**
Sgt. Griffiths (Griff) and other prisoners of war used every scrap they could find to make presents for the children, and Griff began to write a story, one that encapsulated hope and happiness. Teacher's notes are available on the publisher's website.

Johnson, Mitch. **Kick**
Usborne, 2017.
Budi is determined to never give up hope of belonging to a great football team and becoming a star.

Lewis, Gill. **Closest thing to flying**
Samira and her mother came to England as refugees when she was four years old, and she doesn't know where to call home. When she discovers a diary from 1891, she finds inspiration in the actions of Hen, who was brave enough to fight for her place in the world.

McKinlay, Meg. **Drawn onward**
The faceless creature in the book is slowly burdened by all of the negativity that grows with each page, until you reach the centre of the book where it almost overwhelsms him. Then the words are turned around and a whole different perspective is given. The burden is slowly lifted from the creature and he is able to slowly emerge with a face and hope. Teacher's notes are available on the publisher's website.

Morpurgo, Michael. **Boy giant: son of Gulliver**
When Omar and his mother flee for their lives after their village has been bombed and Omar's father killed, they tramp over vast regions until they get to the sea, suffering privation, hunger and thirst. Here Omar's mother makes a heartbreaking sacrifice pushing her son onto the boat while she stays behind, promising that they will meet again in England, reminding him of the address he must repeat to himself.

Orpin, Beci. **Take heart, take action**
A bright beautifully designed book, the 20 catchy phrases in *Take heart, take action* will have readers determined to make the world a better place.

Wormell, Christopher. **Magic place**
Clementine is never allowed out of the house, forced to work by her aunt and uncle. But she has hope, spirit and courage and not even the ghastly Aunt Vermilla and Uncle Rufus can take that away from her.
Hope

Secondary

Almond, David. **Dam**
In the 1980’s, Keider Water in Northumberland, the largest artificial lake in the UK, was created. Farms and houses were submerged and a village drowned, but before that happened a father and his daughter visited the houses and in each, the girl played her fiddle for the last time. The story celebrates the power of the human spirit and the beauty of music.

Bloom, Cameron. **Penguin Bloom: the odd little bird who saved a family**
Abandoned after she fell from her nest, Penguin’s rescue and the incredible joy and strength she gives Sam and all those who helped her survive demonstrates that, however bleak things seem, compassion, friendship and support can come from unexpected quarters.

Falkner, Brian. **That stubborn seed of hope**
Falkner’s short stories will scare the readers, make them think, hope, feel good and wonder what is going to happen next. Teacher’s notes are available on the publisher’s website.

Fleming, Melissa. **Hope more powerful than the sea: the journey of Doaa al Zamel**
Fleet, 2017.
Doaa is a young Syrian refugee trying to reach Sweden, when the dilapidated fishing boat she and 500 other refugees are in sinks in icy waters. This is a disturbing story yet one filled with courage and hope, and this hope, is indeed ‘more powerful than the sea’.

Harry, Pip. **Because of you**
Tiny, is a homeless teen who is barely recognised or heard, except by her down and out older companion, Zak. Her past choices have led her away from love and family until Zak leads her to the Hope Lane Homeless Shelter. Teacher’s notes are available on the publisher’s website.

Heffernan, John. **Hotaka**
In March 2011 a massive earthquake generates a devastating tsunami that destroys major coastline districts in Japan. This is a story of disaster and hope seen through the eyes of the young boy, Hotaka. Teacher’s notes are available on the publisher’s website.

Karapanagiotidis, Kon. **Power of hope**
Kon Karapanagiotidis is truly an inspiring person - founder of the Asylum Seeker Resource Centre, he fights for the rights of people who have no other help available, determined to make a difference to their lives.

Moffat, Catherine. **Hope: an anthology**
Ten short stories reflect the tenacity and optimism that people show in the face of poverty and testing times.

Nielsen-Fernald, Susin. **No fixed address**
Felix and his mom Astrid have a secret: they are living in a van. Astrid promises it’s only for a while until she finds a new job, and begs Felix not to breathe a word about it.

Whitebeach, Terry. **Trouble tomorrow**
Obulejo and his friends must run for their lives when rebels come, searching for boys his age to train as boy soldiers. Teacher’s notes are available on the publisher’s website.
Well-being and life skills literature lists

Information and Communication Technology (ICT) capability

Picture books

Antony, Steve. **Unplugged**
Blip loves her computer. Plugged in she can play games, learn new things, dance to some music and visit exotic places, all day long. But one day, the power is turned off and Blip is so surprised that she trips over the cord and falls all the way downstairs to the outside.

McLean, Felicity. **This is a book! : (no wifi needed)**
Cleverly designed to feel and look like a tablet computer, Felicity McLean's picture book explores the differences between engaging with a paperback or hardcover story and accessing of digital data.

Primary

Aiken, Alastair. Scott, Cavan. **Ali-A adventures: game on!**
Ali-A is attending a gaming convention with his dog, Eevie and partner Clare, reporting to his online fan base of gamers. It is the launch of the new game "Alien Liberator II" and as he is about to do an interview everyone starts to morph into Thralls, vulnerable aliens from the game.

Hegarty, Shane. **Boot: small robot, big adventure**
Boot wakes up in a scrap yard with only 2 and a half memories. He knows he must get back to Beth, his owner, as he also has an undeniable feeling that he is important to her.

Canobi, K. H. **Mindcull**
Ford St, 2019.
In this futurisic thriller, 16 year-old Elia lives in a world where virtual reality is as much part of life as the real world itself. Teacher’s notes are available on the publisher’s website.

Ivanoff, George. **Perfect world**
In one of the cupboards inside a junk shop Keegan finds a computer chip which he feels drawn to. The store curator tells him it is key to another world. She also warns him that once he goes in he might not come out. Teacher’s notes are available on the publisher’s website.

Miles, Alex. **Making magic**
The four friends are tasked with creating a SPACE-TACULAR production for the school community after a class unit of work on SPACE. Others in the series are *Hackathon* (2019) and *Game on* (2019).

Patterson, James. **Genius experiment**
Young Arrow, 2019.
Max Einstein is a girl genius who has used her home-made computer built from discarded parts to hack into the college's systems and add her name to classes she wants to attend. Teacher's notes are available on the publisher's website.

Phommanavanh, Oliver. **Don't follow Vee**
Vee has always gone along with her mother's Instagram account 'The Chronicles of Vee' but this year is different. Vee is in high school, and Mum has begun accepting things from businesses to have Vee wear at school and show online. Teacher’s notes are available on the publisher’s website.
Well-being and life skills literature lists

Information and Communication Technology (ICT) capability

Secondary

Lottie is an ambitious seventeen year old and is determined to call out incidents of sexism. Her blog hits the headlines and trolls come out to make her life difficult.

After joining the massively multiplayer online game Coarsegold, Arizona high schooler Anda meets Raymond, a boy from China who works as a "gold farmer," collecting in-game resources to be sold for real-world cash.

A recent graphic design graduate working in New York comes across a larger than life sculpture on the sidewalk on her way home from a late stint at the office. The robot sculpture so impresses her that she rings a friend and together they name it Carl and make a YouTube video. By the morning their video has gone viral and 23 year old April May and her friend Andy Skampt are famous.

Jarli is a coding Whiz-kid who has developed a 'Truth-detecting' app and released the code for assessment by others and it instantly created waves around the world.

The hackers claim they want nothing but justice and payback. Payback for the bullies who drove a student to take their own life. Eli, a hacker himself, is not sure if he wants to get involved.

Loutzenhiser, Katy. *If you're out there* Balzer + Bray, 2019.
Zan is devastated when her best friend Priya ignores her calls and emails after moving to California. Her social media posts don't sound like her at all and she can't believe that Priya would just leave her hanging without saying why. With Logan, the new boy at school, she begins to investigate what has happened to Priya even though everyone believes that she should just let go of the past.

Warcross is a game that goes across the world, an escape from reality for some and a profit making game for others. Teenage hacker Emika Chen tracks down gamers who bet on Warcross illegally.

*Underdog* is a collection of short stories by Australian writers, covering a range of themes like social media and inclusivity that will resonate with teenage readers.

Kiera has created her own original computer game, 'Slay', built around black heroes and black American culture, hoping to create a safe place for black gamers to play together without having to deal with racist stereotypes and bullying. But things go wrong when a student is murdered and the motivation seems to be an argument over Slay coins.
Well-being and life skills literature lists

Information and Communication Technology (ICT) capability

Pollock, Tom. Heartstream
What would happen if an implant on your scalp would allow your followers to feel all of your emotions in real time?

Reid, Gabrielle. The things we can't undo
Ford St, 2018.
Sam and Dylan are two star-crossed lovers in Year 11 moving clumsily together, toward a perceived rite of passage. Dylan senses mere consensual trepidation. Sam senses coercion but is unwilling to reject the boy she loves. Later, when Sam confides her regrets or perhaps her exploitation, to her best friend Taylor, Taylor begins a crusade to exact revenge on Sam’s behalf.

Sales, Leila. If you don't have anything nice to say
After word-loving seventeen-year-old Winter Halperin thoughtlessly posts a racially offensive remark, her comment goes viral, turning her life into a nightmare.

Shusterman, Neal. Scythe
Citra and Rowan are two teens who have been chosen to be the apprentices of Scythe Faraday, one of the Scythes who ends life in a society where hunger, poverty and even death itself has disappeared. This is the only way to control the population size and the pair have to learn how to choose and glean a life.

Sigmarsdottir, Sif. Sharp edge of a snowflake
Hannah has been sent to live with her father in Iceland. On the way from the airport she witnesses the body of a man who has been murdered and becomes embroiled in finding out what has happened. Meanwhile Imogen Collins is also coming to Iceland. She is a social media influencer and works for a company that manipulates sales. She is also haunted by the man she calls the Beast.

Williams, Gabrielle. My life as a hashtag
Marie Claude, or ‘MC’, is unexpectedly not invited to her best friend's party, an unthinkable event. It seems that the boy she liked is 'with' her best friend too, provoking more nastiness and venting. In response, MC goes to various internet personal rant sites, like Snapchat, and Facebook, where she thoroughly and completely bags her best friend. Teacher’s notes are available on the publisher’s website.

Yang, Gene Luen. Secrets & sequences
Teachers, students, and robots worked together to unravel the mysteries of coding at Stately Academy. Hopper, Eni, and Josh are challenged to outmaneuver Principal Dean in this graphic novel.

Zappia, Francesca. Eliza and her monsters
Eighteen-year-old Eliza Mirk has made Monstrous Sea into a very popular web comic, but things begin to fall apart when she meets a new boy at school.
Kindness

Picture books

Brooke, Cori. **Twelve days of kindness**
Nabila is the new girl in school and she's finding it hard to fit in particularly when she looks different to the other children and eats her lunches alone. But Holly comes to her rescue as their common love for soccer takes over. Teacher notes are available from the publisher.

Conley, Vikki. **Ella & Mrs Gooseberry: discovering what love looks like**
Through her kindness Ella and her family have brought love back to their next door neighbour and found a new friend.

Dreise, Gregg. **Kookoo kookaburra**
The animals loved to listen to Kookoo until he started to tease them with mean stories. The red-winged parrot has to remind him of Uncle Googaguga's message: 'Kindness is like a boomerang - if you throw it often, it comes back often.' Teacher's notes are available.

Durant, Alan. **Quill soup**
Noko, the porcupine, is very hungry but the villagers refuse to give him food or shelter. He decides to make soup from his quills, saying even the king likes it and the animals all add something. It challenges distrust of strangers and emphasises the importance of being kind.

Kobald, Irena. **My two blankets**
Cartwheel often hides under her old blanket, a large, warm blanket that reflects her home, a place of shelter and refuge. Outside she cannot understand the words, or cope with the new until she meets another girl who is kind to her. Teacher’s notes are available.

Naylor-Ballesteros, Chris. **Suitcase**
When an exhausted, and frightened animal appears one day, the other three animals are intrigued to learn what was in his suitcase. They find a broken teacup and a picture of a little house with the animal drinking tea out of the teacup, all which is left of his home.

Pearson, Emily. **Ordinary Mary's extraordinary deed**
A young girl's good deed is multiplied as it is passed on by those who have been touched by the kindness of others.

Speechley, Michael. **Gift**
Rosie decides that she will leave a gift for the old woman in the house across the road. Her mother, now dead, used to tell her to give a gift that was different, unusual and surprising. An activity pack is available from the publisher.

Stein, David Ezra. **Because Amelia smiled**
Candlewick, 2012.
When Amelia smiled, Mrs Higgins smiles as well, thinking of her son far away. She cooks him some biscuits and sends them on. In Mexico Lionel and his class eat the biscuits, then the kindness continues on with Sensacia who teaches her cousin.

Woodson, Jacqueline. **The day you begin**
Other students laugh when Rigoberto, an immigrant from Venezuela, introduces himself but later, he meets Angelina and discovers that he is not the only one who feels like an outsider.
Well-being and life skills literature lists

Kindness

Primary

Harris, Tim. *Mr Bambuckle’s remarkables fight back*
Things are looking dire for the students in 12B. Their teacher Miss Frost lives up to her name with her cold demeanour and extreme discipline. What hope is there for 12B who are missing the flamboyant and caring Mr Bambuckle? This follows *Mr Bambuckle’s remarkables* (2017).

Kerascoet. *I walk with Vanessa: a story about a simple act of kindness*
An elementary school girl witnesses the bullying of another girl, but is not sure how to help.

Kinder, Wynne. *Calm: mindfulness for kids*
Dorling Kindersley, 2019.
Presented in six chapters, educators and children can delve in to the sections - Focus, Calm, Move, Change, Care, and Reflect. Non-fiction.

Rauf, Onjali Q. *Boy at the back of the class*
Orion, 2018.
Learning that Britain is about to close its gates to refugees from Calais, four children hatch plans to help Ahmet find his family before it is too late. Teacher’s notes are available.

Sheinmel, Courtney. *Chloe on the bright side*
Fifth grader Chloe Silver is good at looking on the bright side. But staying positive has been difficult since her parents divorced and she had to start at a new school. When Chloe is given the chance to try out for the exclusive It Girls club, things are finally looking up again.

Secondary

Godwin, Jane. *As happy as here*
Lothian, 2019.
When three girls witness some suspicious behaviour in the park below their hospital window they investigate on their own. A thoughtful book about friendship, kindness and courage.

Kinsella, Sophie. *Finding Audrey*
Audrey is a British teen, beset with anxiety and depression, who has left school after an unspecified incident. With kindness, her brother's friend Linus helps draw Audrey out.

Palacio, R.J. *White bird: a Wonder story*
Sara was a student when the Nazis invaded her home in France. She reveals her harrowing story to her grandson and remembers the kindness, love and loyalty she received.

Spinelli, Jerry. *Stargirl*
Hachette, 2016.
Stargirl appears at Mica High dressed as a hippie. Her non-conformist ways make everyone love her, especially Leo, who is in love with her, but her popularity doesn’t last.

Stewart, Erin. *Scars like wings*
After a fire leaves Ava Lee badly scarred, the kindness of others relieves the pain.

Velasquez, Lizzie. *Dare to be kind*
17-year-old Lizzie came across a YouTube video of herself entitled 'The world's ugliest woman'. Her response drew positive results.
Well-being and life skills literature lists

Leadership

Picture books

Clement, Rod. **Top dog**
Angus & Robertson, 2016.
Samson is an extraordinary dog. He can not only talk and walk on his hind legs, and dress in a suit, but holds down the CEO leadership position at a major company in the city.

Hill, David. **Taking the lead: how Jacinda Ardern wowed the world**
Jacinda Ardern’s story is one of dedication and sticking to her ideals. Her saying, 'let's do this' is often heard when she has work to do, and nothing seems to phase her.

Jones, Gareth P. **Are you the Pirate Captain?**
Scholastic, 2016.
The pirate ship is ready to go: First mate Hugh has organised the crew but they need a captain. In their search for one, they decide that they need some to lead, someone with brains and courage.

Yousafzai, Malala. **Malala's magic pencil**
Nobel Peace Prize winner, Malala came to worldwide attention when a terrorist attempted to kill her in 2012 for promoting the education of girls in war-torn Pakistan.

Primary

Gleitzman, Morris. **Help around the house**
When Ludo's Dad is elected into Federal Parliament, Ludo knows this is the perfect chance to try to help people. However his Dad's Boss seems to think being re-elected is more important. When an outing to help the homeless uncovers a conspiracy, Ludo starts to see that maybe it's the rich and powerful who need his help. Teacher's notes are available from the publisher.

Kamkwamba, William. Mealer, Bryan. **Boy who harnessed the wind**
An enterprising teenager in Malawi built a windmill from scraps he found around his village and brought electricity to his family, after his Malawi village was hit by a drought.

Lawrence, David. **Reppin' it**
The boys and girls from Robdale Primary try out for the District representative team. Danny, Crystal and several of their team mates get selected, but Danny and Crystal demonstrate the qualities that make their peers honour them with selection as Captains.

Lowry, Lois. **Number the stars**
In Nazi-occupied Denmark, ten-year-old Annemarie Johansen is called upon for a selfless act of bravery to help save her best friend from a terrible fate.

Phommavanh, Oliver. **Natural born leader [crossed out] loser**
*Natural born loser* is an inspiring, funny story and promotes being yourself rather than following the crowd. When Raymond is chosen as a prefect, he has to work together and lead together with the other prefects to help stop bullying in the school.

Walliams, David. **Beast of Buckingham Palace**
Twelve year old Prince Alfred discovers his strength and leadership ability with the aid of a little street mite, his mother the queen and a band of elderly lady revolutionaries.
Well-being and life skills literature lists

Leadership

Secondary

Bardugo, Leigh. *Six of crows*  
Hachette, 2016.  
Kaz Brekker has been offered the chance to pull off the heist of a life time and he gathers around him a team of five dangerous specialists, most from the Dregs, thieves of Kerch’s underworld. This is followed by *Crooked Kingdom* (2016).

Card, Orson Scott. *Ender's game*  
Tor, 2013.  
Ender's skills make him a leader in school and respected in the Battle Room, where children play at mock battles in zero gravity. How will Ender perform in real combat conditions when Earth is under attack?

Coyle, Katie. *Vivian versus the apocalypse*  
Vivian is cynical about the Church of America and had always doubted the advent of the Rapture and can hardly believe that her parents have left her alone to fend for herself. Accompanied by her friends, she embarks on a thrilling road trip across America to the place where Peter believes the Church is located. This is followed by *Vivian versus America*.

Grochowicz, Joanna. *Amundsen's way: the race to the South Pole*  
Amundsen's knowledge, leadership and courage got everyone through safely on their dangerous journey to reach the South Pole.

Hill, Stuart. *Cry of the Icemark*  
Chicken House, 2019.  
14 year old Thirrin must raise an army to protect her people from Imperial invaders. Her search for allies takes her beyond her northern borders, to former enemies in the Land-of-the-Ghosts and onwards to the frozen Hub of the World.

Ireland, Justina. *Dread nation*  
Jane McKeene is a feisty and intelligent girl who has outstanding leadership skills which she uses often while fighting the zombie Shambler and a group of Survivalists who view her and her companions as fodder for the undead.

Maas, Sarah J. *Throne of glass*  
Bloomsbury, 2012.  
In a world torn apart by the selfish, power-hungry desires of the King of Adarlan, Celaena is nothing but unusual: a former captive and a trained assassin, she is uncowed by the brutal, awesome displays of power the king uses to crush all opposition against him in Erilea.

Thomas, Angie. *The hate you give*  
Navigating between life as the only person of colour (POC) at a prestigious prep school in the suburbs, and being the only kid in the projects who can afford to go to such a school, Starr Carter doesn't know who she is. Then she sees her childhood best friend shot dead at the hands of a police officer. She is forced to be the voice of change in difficult times.

Watson, Renee. *This side of home*  
Maya, the student body president, feels her school is abandoning its African American heritage and she starts a campaign to celebrate African American high achievers. She feels there is no point lamenting the negatives without emphasising the many positives in their community. During the campaign she grows close to Tony and has to face her own prejudice and admit to having a white boyfriend.
Well-being and life skills literature lists

Life skills

Picture books

Caterpillar really wants to be able to tie his shoelaces. And understandably, as there are so many pairs of shoes on his numerous legs. He can do all sorts of things really well. He can count, walk a tightrope, fly a kite and play the drums, but all he really wants to do in the world is tap dance, and he cannot possibly do that when all of his shoelaces are untied.

When a couple of friends give RJ a compliment, he just isn't sure how to respond and when he is told there are some things to work on he wants to argue. But there is a right and wrong way to receive positive and negative feedback.

Ivanhoe is determined to see what lies over the hill, to travel to places unseen, to explore the world beyond his home. The subtlety behind Godwin’s simple story of gaining one’s independence will not be lost on its audience, as they all try out new things every day, stretching their worlds, pushing beyond what is known. Teacher’s notes are available on the publisher’s website.

Encouraging children to speak out, to say what they feel and make themselves heard is the basis for this picture book aimed at lower primary kids and made for a class where issues are discussed openly.

Opening with the words “Life begins small”, the author shows the wonderful things about life through the eyes of the world’s animals. There is beauty to be seen and strength to be gained through adversity.

On the simplest level, younger children reading this book will see that many people have worries and concerns: they are not alone, and they can reach out to others for help. Teacher’s notes are available on the publisher’s website.

Primary

To survive in an increasingly dangerous world, six quarrelsome youngsters must come together as a team.

Author Susan Berran humorously provides advice for kids on how to survive parent lectures.

Camping begins to become less awful for Susie K until she gets lost with Clementine, the school’s glamour queen. It takes all of her problem solving and book-reading skills to get them out of the ‘jungle’.
Well-being and life skills literature lists

Life skills

Gerber, Alyson. Focused
Scholastic Press, 2019.
Twelve-year-old Clea wants to be successful, do her homework and listen at school, but she finds it really difficult to focus.

Konigsburg, E.L. From the mixed-up files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler
Faber Factory, 2015.
Determined to solve the mystery of the statue in the Metropolitan Museum, Claudia and Jamie have to use all their wits, intelligence and money-sense to remain undiscovered until Claudia decides to visit the statue's previous owner Mrs Basil E. Frankweiler, a somewhat eccentric old lady who seems to understand both children very well.

Rossell, Judith. Garden of lilies: improving tales for young minds by Prudence A Goodchild
This little book ‘full of depressing stories of children who did wrong and met with tragedy’ opens up conversations and discussions comparing children's lives and their social life, etiquette and customs with current norms and lifestyles.

Secondary

Chbosky, Stephen. Perks of being a wallflower
Charlie is a very shy, socially awkward wallflower, trying to get over the suicide of his friend, make new friends and navigate family dramas.

Crowley, Cath. Gracie Faltrain gets it right (finally)
Gracie needs help to organise her life both on and off the playing field. She needs time to see friends, complete her school work and talk to Martin. This follows Gracie Faltrain takes control (2019).

Croucher, Lex. You're crushing it!
Bloomsbury, 2019.
An honest, thoughtful and hilarious survival guide for young people by social media sensation, Lex Croucher. Non-fiction.

Georgia Productions. Amazingly disorganised help dictionary
Georgia is as entertaining on her channel as in her writing. Both media give us real insights into the teenage mind and the skills to navigate social media.

Morgan, Nicola. Teenage guide to friends
The author explores the topic of friendships, looking at making friends, establishing healthy relationships and online experiences.

Morgan, Nicola. Teenage guide to life online
Social media access, privacy, sexting, and cyberbullying are often the big-ticket items when thinking about the internet, but this books also explores other sides of social media access, including how to ensure the information you are accessing is accurate, being creative online and using online tools, and the difference between reading on a screen and reading on paper.
Well-being and life skills literature lists

Literacy

Picture books

Bunting, Laura. Bunting, Philip. Another book about bears
This wonderfully entertaining book consists of a dialogue between the writer and the bear, as the bear, realising that yet another book is being written about his species, refuses to comply.

Carnavas, Peter. Children who loved books
Angus and Lucy love books. They have so many of them that the caravan they live in becomes much too crowded and the books have to go. This is a wonderful book that celebrates reading and the importance of libraries.

Dubosarsky, Ursula. Midnight at the library
Dubosarsky's story charting the history of the book is riveting, taking the reader across the years through every story's beginnings as a head full of words to its being written down and printed. Teacher's notes are available at the publisher's website.

Gliori, Debi. Bookworm
Bloomsbury Children's Books, 2019
Max really wants a pet. Excuses are given, reasons deduced, but still no pet appears. Only when Max finds a worm does he have a pet that he likes. All good fun, underlying the family tradition of reading before going to bed, and promoting reading as an activity,

Dyckman, Ame. Read the book, lemmings!
Foxy's book tells him that lemmings don't jump off cliffs, but clearly they haven't read the book.

Jeffers, Oliver. Winston, Sam. A child of books
The girl asks the boy to join her as she sails on a sea of words and books, taking him on her voyage of the imagination, climbing mountains, finding treasure in a cave, losing themselves in a forest, escaping monsters, flying to the stars.

McInerny, Amelia. Book chook
Ray does not realise that he is a book chook, a two dimensional drawing that has a place only on a page. He calls out to the audience to help him escape.

Porter, Matt. The greatest book in the world
Illus. by Dave Atze. Ford St, 2019.
Rudolf introduces his book, inviting readers to add the last word of each stanza, carefully picking a word that rhymes. This is a treat for kids discussing acceptability of language, looking at what language can be used and where as well as its appropriateness in particular circumstances.

Prior, Natalie Jane. Lucy's book
When Lucy finds a book that really appeals to her she takes it with her everywhere, reading it at home, in her bedroom, while she has a bath, in bed, in church, sharing it with her siblings and friends. When she returns it to the library the following week, her friends race to fetch it from the returns trolley.

Sanders, Ben. My book (not yours)
Lento the sloth introduces us to his book, and when has a rest, cunning Fox takes over the authorship and the pair argue about who really owns the book.
Well-being and life skills literature lists

Literacy

Primary

Darlison, Aleesah. **Secrets and spells**
As Courtney explores the house at Morton Bay, she discovers a box labelled with her name. Inside is a spell book, her grandmother's spell book.

Gordon, Kate. **Word ninja**
When Juno Jones' school is threatened with closure, she needs to learn to like reading and become a word ninja to help stop it closing.

Greenwood, Mark. **Happiness box: a wartime book of hope**
Sgt. Griffiths (Griff) was a prisoner of war who wrote a story for the children in the camp, one that encapsulated hope and happiness.

Harrold, A.F. **Fizzlebert Stump: the boy who ran away from the circus (and joined the library)**
Bloomsbury, 2012.
After an unexpected meeting with a group of local school children Fizzlebert finds a book. The advice from his circus friends is to return it to the library. But Fizzlebert doesn't know what a library is so he sets off one morning to try and locate it in the local town and unexpected things begin to happen.

James, Anna. **Tilly and the bookwanderers**
Eleven-year-old Tilly's mother mysteriously disappeared just after she gave birth to her daughter and ever since, Tilly's been living with her loving grandparents above their bookshop 'Pages and Co.' She loves to immerse herself in her favourite stories.

Meddour, Wendy. **How the library (not the prince) saved Rapunzel**
Frances Lincoln Children's Books, 2015.
Rapunzel is bored. The prince doesn't interest her and it is not until she is offered a job at the library that her life changes.

Stowell, Louie. **Dragon in the library**
Kit can't stand reading. She'd much rather be outside, playing games and getting muddy, than stuck inside with a book. But when she's dragged along to the library one day by her two best friends, she makes an incredible discovery - and soon it's up to Kit and her friends to save the library and the world.

Torday, Piers. **Frozen sea**
Quercus, 2019.
Jewel tends to be an outsider and when she is chased by school bullies, she seeks refuge in a bookshop. She falls into a book and continues an adventure started by her mother and her aunt and uncles many years ago. She is guided into the fantasy world of Folio where she has to rescue her aunt who has been missing since childhood.

Wild, Margaret. **Stone lion**
Little Hare, 2014.
A stone lion crouched on a pedestal outside the library wants to come alive but needs to do one single selfless act to achieve that. Teaching notes are available.
Well-being and life skills literature lists

Literacy

Secondary

Alexander, Kwame. Booked
When twelve-year-old Nick can’t play soccer, he learns the power of words from his stern father as he stands up to a bully, and tries to impress the girl of his dreams.

Fforde, Jasper. Lost in a good book
Thursday Next, literary detective and newlywed is back to embark on an adventure that begins, quite literally on her own doorstep.

Foxlee, Karen. Lenny’s book of everything
When Lenny’s mother enters and wins a competition for a set of Burrell’s Build-It-at-Home Encyclopedias, their small world is opened up to the majesty and wonder of nature, far-off lands, animals, birds and insects.

Hale, Shannon. Book of a thousand days
Bloomsbury, 2010.
When Lady Saren refuses to marry Lord Khasar, the man her father has chosen for her, she is walled up in a tower with her maid, Dashti who writes a diary of what happens.

Ridge, Judith. The book that made me
This publication compiles submissions by authors who explain how they were moved, comforted, inspired and influenced by books.

Rogerson, Margaret. Sorcery of thorns
Margaret K. McElderry Books
Elisabeth has grown up in a Great Library where magical grimoires are chained. After facing down one of the grimoires, she is accused of treason and sent to the capital to face justice.

Rowell, Rainbow. Fangirl
When her twin sister Wren decides she wants to live in separate student accommodation Cath immerses herself in writing fan fiction as a coping strategy.

Ruiz Zafon, Carlos. Shadow of the wind
Text, 2006.
Daniel must 'adopt' a single book from the secret Cemetery of Forgotten Books promising to care for it and keep it alive always.

Shaffer, Mary Ann Barrows, Annie. Guernsey Literary & Potato Peel Pie Society
When Elizabeth tells the German patrol that she and several islanders were meeting to discuss books, she starts a group meeting every fortnight to discuss works they have read.

Westerfeld, Scott. Afterworlds
Darcy is an eighteen year old that has just finished high school and, with it, her very first novel, Afterworlds. On a spur of the moment decision she sends her book to an agent and lands herself in writer's paradise with a two book contract and a year for re-writes.

Zusak, Markus. The book thief
Picador, 2019 (c2005).
Liesel shares her stolen books with her neighbors during bombing raids as well as with the Jewish man hidden in her basement before he is marched to Dachau.

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Well-being and life skills literature lists

Loneliness

Picture books

Coelho, Joseph. **No longer alone**
A little girl is quiet and shy but when she finally shares her feelings with her father, she no longer feels alone.

Damm, Antje. **The visitor**
Elise lives alone in her dark, gloomy house. She is frightened of everything: spiders, people and even trees, and never goes outside, preferring to clean her house every morning until it is spotless. One day a paper plane flies through an open window and when the little boy comes to collect it, a friendship develops for the lonely woman.

Fenton, Corinne. **Scruffle-Nut**
An old woman sitting in a park remembers when Nanny Clementine took her there. She recalls the scruffy little squirrel with the stumpy tail, who was chased away by the other squirrels. This mirrors the actions of three little girls from her school. Swan's illustrations show the little girl becoming braver with the girls and overcoming loneliness. Teacher’s notes are available.

Naylor-Ballesteros, Chris. **Lonely Christmas tree**
Bloomsbury, 2019.
All the trees near the little tree had been cut and decorated and it felt all alone until a jolly fellow chose it for a great spot in town.

Magerl, Caroline. **Nop**
Each night the toys get out thread and buttons and sparkle and mend each other so when people come into the Dumporeum, toys are taken. But Nop is left on the shelf. This charming tale of never giving up and making a plan will appeal to younger readers as they perhaps grapple with the idea of making friends. Teacher’s notes are available from the publisher.

Speechley, Michael. **The gift**
When Rosie looks at the derelict house across the road, she feels that someone must live there. She decides to leave a gift for the old woman in the house and a bond grows between the two. An activity pack is available on the publisher’s website.

Vescio, Robert. **Under the same sky**
Two lonely children, on opposite sides of the world, crave friendship. One is a more affluent city dweller with his own space, while the other lives in a more remote space. But it just takes one move to get people to connect no matter where they live. Teacher’s notes are available.

Primary

Curtin, Judi. **You've got a friend**
Molly’s father is lonely and isolated and with her friend Beth, she travels back in time to see if she can find out the roots of his loneliness and perhaps help him.

Fenton, Peter. **Days of in between**
Nothing goes right with Toby’s visit to the beach to see his Dad. Judy and his Dad argue and leave, so Toby is left alone to find something to eat and to fend for himself. He meets Tara who lives nearby and his loneliness lifts but Tara has issues with her own family, having lost her mother in an accident and she has to deal with her overprotective father.
Well-being and life skills literature lists

Loneliness

Jennings, Paul. **Different land**
Jennings explores what it is like to be a migrant in a new and very strange land. Christopher is lonely and missing his familiar homeland, but knows that his mother Pat believes they will have a better future after leaving their bombed home town and the deaths of his twin brother and father. Teacher’s notes are available on the publisher’s website.

Otton, Steve. **Tiny: a little dog on a big adventure**
This breathtaking book of photographs of a trip around Australia will capture readers' imaginations as they follow the path taken by Steve and Tiny, his dog.

Thompson, Lisa. **Owen and the soldier**
Owen has nobody to talk to except the crumbling stone soldier in the park. When the Council decide to tear him down, he must try to find the courage to save him.

Welford, Ross. **1,000 year old boy**
An everlasting life means Alfie and his mother have lived through great changes but they must move on when people become suspicious that Alfie never grows into adolescence or adulthood. He must continually leave his normal, aging friends and move to new homes. When his mother dies he is left alone. Alfie needs to trust 21st century Roxy and Aidan, who desperately try to be his first real true friends and help him find the last "life pearl" to begin the aging process, so he can live a normal life.

Secondary

Carter, Ally. **Not if I save you first**
Scholastic, 2018.
In this exciting adventure, survival story, Maddie and Logan were inseparable until a kidnapping attempt was made on Logan's mother and Maddie's father foiled the attempt. Whisked off to the Canadian wilds, she is isolated, and through a series of letters to Logan, some never sent, the reader is shown Maddie's life in Alaska, her loneliness and the growth of strength and toughness that isolation has taught her.

James, Lauren. **Quiet at the end of the world**
In a future where the human race is infertile, the last two people to ever be born confront the fear of loneliness when a mystery disease rages through an already dwindling population.

LaCour, Nina. **We are okay**
UQP, 2019.
This book is a compelling story told by Marin who is attending college in New York. Isolation is front and centre as we find Marin alone in the school dormitory. Told from Marin’s perspective the reader becomes aware of events through the feelings and memories she acknowledges. Teacher’s notes are available on the publisher’s website. For mature readers.

Levithan, David. **Someday**
A has been forced to live in a different person’s body every day, fighting loneliness, and believed that there was nobody like him. But there are others and he finds that he is not alone in the world.

Williams, Eloise. **Seaglass**
When Lark and Snow find a hidden, ruined house they both encounter the ghostly presence of a young girl who tries to draw Snow away to be her friend in her loneliness.
Well-being and life skills literature lists

Mental Health

Picture Books

Blabey, Aaron. I Need a Hug!
Scholastic, 2015.
A prickly hedgehog craves a hug but no one will oblige him until something comes along with similar traits. The endpapers gloriously tell us what the animal feels at the start and end of his search.

Colfer, Eoin. Anna Liza and the happy practice
Barrington Stoke, 2016.
Anna Liza Madigan cheers up patients in her mother’s waiting room with knock knock jokes and happy songs, but 7 year old Edward is the saddest child she has ever seen.

Cooper Smith, Heidi. Kate and the thing
Being a new kid at school leaves Kate feeling despondent. The others in her school have their own friends, and are in groups playing when she arrives. She watches them from behind the tree, unsure of what to do. The Thing which accompanies her on the way to school stays with her all day, watching her play and hide.

Larkin, Emily. Magisson, Helene. Whirlpool
Life is lovely for Polar Bear Cub. He has a happy, loving family where he is safe and protected. Then the shadows fall and he is left alone.

Parker, Danny. Sarah and the steep slope
When Sarah opened her door one morning she was confronted by a steep slope. Blocking out the sun and casting a shadow across everything. Rising in front her like an insurmountable and impenetrable barrier until her friends helped her.

Primary

Almond, David. Slog’s Dad
Slog’s Dad has died but Slog insists that the old man in the park is his father, come back for one last time. This is a masterful look at overwhelming grief and final acceptance.

Fensham, Elizabeth. Helicopter man
Bloomsbury, 2005.
Peter Sinclair cares for his father, who is mentally ill, and tries to make the most of their homeless life together. The reader slowly comes to realise the extent of Peter’s father’s illness as does Peter in finally accepting help.

French, Simon. The other brother
Bon is a neglected child of a mentally unstable woman, who leaves him with her mother and sister in a small country town, where everyone knows each other’s business. Teacher’s notes are available on the publisher’s website.

Jennings, Paul. A different dog
The boy is unable to speak after the farmer shot his dog, but in finding a dog that cannot walk, all his courage is tested.
Well-being and life skills literature lists

Mental Health

Magorian, Michelle. *Goodnight Mister Tom*  
A most amazing tale of an abused boy sent to the country during the Blitz, finding refuge with a recluse, a man who has shut out all contact with people since his wife died.

Millard, Glenda. *Layla Queen of Hearts*  
ABC, 2006.  
The fabulous *Kingdom of Silk* series continues with Layla organising a Seniors’ Day Event including aged people from the local nursing home.

Weetman, Nova. *Secrets we share*  
Sequel to: *The secrets we keep*, 2016. Clem has a secret. Her mother, Sarah, suffering from depression has returned home after some months in care. They live in a tiny flat, waiting for their new house to be built replacing their home which was burnt down twelve months before after Mum left a candle burning. Teacher’s notes are available on the publisher’s website.

Secondary

Anderson, Laurie Halse. *The impossible knife of memory*  
Text, 2014.  
Hayley’s father is a broken man, taking to alcohol and drugs to ease the pain of post-traumatic shock disorder after Vietnam. Hayley watches out for him, but needs to start to look out for herself.

Gardner, Scot. *The dead I know*  
Sleepwalking Aaron has been found by authorities in the oddest of places and after helping the funeral director with the body of a young girl who suicided from a local cliff overlooking the sea, Aaron fears that this will be where he too will go. Teacher’s notes are available on the publisher’s website.

Gardner, Scot. *Sparrow*  
Sparrow is a 16 year old boy who doesn’t speak. He has been accused of murdering his brother and sent to juvenile detention. On a trip home after a boot camp, the boat is wrecked and he finds himself fighting for his life in shark and crocodile infested waters as he swims for shore and freedom. Teacher’s notes are available on the publisher’s website.

Gordon, Kate. *Girl running, boy falling*  
Rhiza Edge, 2018.  
Therese has always had her feet on the ground. She’s running through high school, but someone in her life is about to fall. And when he does, her perfect world falls with him. Teacher’s notes are available on the publisher’s website.

Haddon, Mark. *The curious incident of the dog in the night time*  
Fifteen year old Christopher, on the spectrum, has difficulty in social situations but summons up enormous courage to ask people about the neighbour’s dog which he finds dead.

Hubbard, Jennifer R. *Try not to breathe*  
Sixteen year old Ryan is a misfit. He spends a lot of time at the local waterfall, because it makes him feel alive when he actually walks under it. He has recovered from time spent in a mental hospital after attempting suicide, and he’s finding that living with the hovering of his parents and the rumours at school are very difficult to cope with.
Well-being and life skills literature lists

Mental Health

Lindstrom, Eric. Tragic kind of wonderful
Mel Hannigan has bipolar disorder, diagnosed after a period of traumatic events, requiring a period in hospital.

Metzenthen, David. Dreaming the enemy
The Battle of Long Tan is the background of this book about one man's experiences overcoming deep seated grief and anxiety as a result of being involved.

Millard, Glenda. The Stars at Oktober Bend
Alice writes her diary in short sentences without the conventions of full stops and capital letters but the meaning is plain. She lives with her brother and Gran after an accident has left her brain damaged. In leaving her poems in the town she meets Manny a former boy soldier from Sierra Leone. Teacher notes are available on the publisher’s website.

Niven, Jennifer. All the bright places
Two teenagers struggle with thoughts of suicide, drawn together by a shared experience of loneliness, rejection, depression and guilt. It is a sensitive portrayal of grief and teenage love that is sad but ultimately uplifting in its resolution.

Saliba, Sue. For the forest of a bird
Nella waits by the creek for the return of the swallows in spring, believing that her father will return. Her mother’s mental illness has deepened since the divorce and she and her brother are finding it hard to cope.

Toten, Teresa. The unlikely hero of Room 13B
At a support group for OCD teens Adam falls instantly in love with new girl, Robyn and decides to be more a part of the group, following suggestions so that she will notice him.

Wakefield, Vikki. Ballad for a mad girl
Text, 2017.
Grace Foley has a reputation for being a little bit mad. She is a risk taker and plays pranks on her friends. When she accepts the challenge to walk the pipe which stretches across a deep ravine, she experiences a moment of dread when she hears a voice, and is dragged into the mystery of Hannah Holt who disappeared twenty years before and of the boy who was accused of murdering her. Struggling with working out what is real and what could be in her imagination, Grace becomes immersed in following clues while trying to hold onto her sanity. Teacher notes are available on the publisher’s website.

Wallman, Sue. See how they lie
Scholastic, 2017.
Hummingbird Creek is an upmarket retreat for teenagers who need help. Mae has grown up there but after Mae has been caught breaking the rules, she begins to question everything about the way the place is run.
Well-being and life skills literature lists

Numeracy

Picture books

Barnett, Mac. Klassen, Jon. Triangle
Triangle lives in his house, a triangle, and uses his door, a triangle. He walks to his friend's house, Square. To get there he walks past big triangles and little triangles, shapes that are not triangles at all, until he gets to Square's house. Square (2018) is another by Mac Barnett.

Canby, Kelly. Rodney
Rodney the turtle is stuck on the ground, barely able to see over the weeds underfoot. He longs to be tall. A picture book looking at size and perception.

Harris, Robie H. Crash! Boom!: a maths tale
Elephant wants to build something as tall as he. He experiments, calculates, builds and when his efforts fall to the floor, he cries but he tries again.

Harris, Robie H. Now what?: a math tale
Puppy is full of energy but also likes to snooze. He has a pile of differently shaped blocks and for his snooze, looks at one which is a rectangle with one long side. Is this the one he needs for a bed, he ponders.

Hendry, Lorna. All about graphs
All about graphs is a great research tool for all children and serves as an introduction to the topic of graphs and also as a tool for older children deciding how to present their research.

Pennacchio, Marcello. Somewhere in the reef
Using the rhyme, Over in the meadow, Pennacchio has developed a read aloud counting book that is infectiously entertaining and informative at the same time.

Primary

Balla, Trace. Rivertime
A tender and beautifully illustrated tale of a boy and his bird-watching uncle, on a paddling trip on Australia's Glenelg River.

Choldenko, Gennifer. Al Capone does my homework
Bloomsbury, 2014.
In 1935 Matthew 'Moose' Flanagan's family move to Alcatraz Island so that his father can work as a guard and his older sister, Natalie, who has autism, can attend a special school in San Francisco.

Jacobs, Jaco. Good night for shooting zombies
Rock the Boat, 2018.
Martin aka 'Clucky', is a quirky 13 year old mathematician and heir to his father's egg business. Vusi owns a dog who likes to bite chickens. Friendship follows as Clucky sees that Vusi is recovering from treatment for Hodgkin's Lymphoma.

L'Engle, Madeleine. A wrinkle in time
Accompanied by her brother Charles Wallace and friend Calvin, Meg Murry goes on a quest to find her missing father, who had been experimenting with time travel. Helped along the way by Mrs Whatsit, Mrs Who and Mrs Which, they travel through time to another dimension.
Well-being and life skills literature lists

Numeracy

McFarlane, Susannah. **Time to shine**
Lemonfizz Media, 2013.
Emma reflects on the change a maths test brought to her life and the adventure she had rescuing seals and other sea creatures from an oil spill.

Rippin, Sally. **Top team**
Hardie Grant Egmont, 2019.
Jack is paired with Alex who is much better at Maths than Jack. They both learn to cooperate and encourage each other with the daily lessons.

Van Dolzer, Krista. **Multiplying mysteries of Mount Ten**
Esther, an aspiring 12-year-old artist feels like a fish out of water at Camp Archimedes but after solving a very complicated brain teaser in a single day her confidence lifts.

Secondary

Green, John. **Abundance of Katherines**
Colin has broken up with 19 Katherines and on a road trip with his friend Hassam tries to crack the ‘Theorem of Underlying Katherine Predictability’.

Keil, Melissa. **Secret science of magic**
Hardie Grant Egmont, 2017.
Sophia is very smart - she loves mathematics and finds it easy to relate to logic. Joshua loves his magic tricks and is obsessed with finding a way to get to know Sophia.

Kowal, Mary Robinette. **Calculating stars**
Tor, 2018.
When a meteor decimates the U.S. and destroys the U.S. government, Elma York, a WASP pilot and mathematician, manages to fly her husband and herself to safety. For older readers.

Kowal, Mary Robinette. **Fated sky**
Tor, 2018.
Lady Astronaut Elma York is now living on a colony on the Moon and may have the chance to be part of a trip to Mars. For older readers.

Lee Shetterly, Margot. **Hidden figures**
A group of dedicated female mathematicians known as “human computers” used pencils, slide rules and adding machines to calculate the numbers that would launch rockets, and astronauts, into space. Teacher’s notes are available on the publisher’s website.

Pollock, Tom. **White rabbit, red wolf**
Seventeen-year-old Peter Blankman is a maths prodigy. Afraid of everything, he finds solace in the orderly and logical world of mathematics and in the love of his family as well as Ingrid, his only friend.

Sedgwick, Marcus. **She is not invisible**
Indigo, 2014.
Laureth sets off for New York with her strange younger brother, Benjamin, to find her missing father who is obsessed with coincidence and the number 354. She has just one clue to follow; his notebook.
Well-being and life skills literature lists

Persistence

Picture books

Cena, John. Elbow Grease vs. Motozilla
Five monster truck brothers are competing in a demolition derby against Motozilla, and it will take leadership from Elbow Grease and teamwork to win. Elbow Grease (2018) also shows persistence.

Guest, Patrick. Second sky
Gilbert the baby penguin longs to fly. He is singularly persistent, changing tactics when necessary and ignoring naysayers, until he finally finds his place in the world.

Ford St, 2018.
Jasper is a bit of a disinterested learner (dragging his tentacles off to school) and he would definitely rather juggle jellyfish than count them. Imagine his surprise when his learning to juggle also results in him learning to count.

McKinnon, Heidi. It's a long way to the shop
Scholastic Press, 2018.
Readers will just love working out how two rocks can make it to the shop. After all they don't have legs or wings, or flippers, but they make it across the field, the river and the mountain with the help of other creatures.

Walliams, David. Geronimo
When hatched, Geronimo the Emperor Penguin just thinks about flying. That's all he wants to do and spends his waking hours attempting to fly, despite his father among others telling him that penguins do not fly. Then his father and the other penguins come up with an imaginative solution.

Williams, Lydia. Saved!!!
Little Lydia loves sport. She imagines the animals in the bush are her friends, and uses them as a platform for playing different sports until she finds one that she both likes and is successful at.

Primary

Blair, Juliet. Lucy's dawn
Fourteen-year-old Lucy's life changes when she starts a job working in Louisa Lawson's printery, where only girls and women are employed. But it's the late 1880s and the male printers elsewhere think that this work should be for men only. So they decide to make the girls' lives difficult! Lucy has many battles ahead but, in the process, she realises who her real friends are - and finds her first love. Teacher's notes are available at the publisher's website.

Do, Anh. Flying ninja!
Scholastic Press, 2018.
Nelson's efforts at protecting his class from rampaging machines and escaped Zoo animals are not appreciated at first but he is persistent.

Durrant, S.E. Running on empty
In order to deal with his grief about his grandfather's death and to keep his anxiety at bay, AJ keeps running, hoping to go into the cross country trials.
Well-being and life skills literature lists

Perspective

Jennings, Paul. A different land
Christopher, his mother and Anton who have travelled 12,000 miles to Australia and then made a long train journey in hope of employment. When the trio arrive though, they find that the pub is very run down and they have to live in a caravan smelling of dead pig and they will need to be persistent and resilient to keep going. Teacher's notes are available on the publisher's website.

Peretti, Paola, Distance between me and the cherry tree
This poignant tale has Mafalda charting her loss of sight as her eyes deteriorate. She is full of grit and determination, learning that family and friends are the best things to have around you.

Pearce, Jackson. Ellie, engineer
Bloomsbury, 2018.
Ellie is a risk taker and understands that when you are inventing things failure is a common occurrence but one must display persistence and keep going.

Secondary

Betts, A.J. Hive
Hayley sees a drip. She is afraid. Water only comes from God and yet it is coming from the ceiling in the way between living spaces, a place she is forbidden to enter unless a bee has escaped. But she continues to question what is happening. This is followed by Rogue (2019).

Laird, Elizabeth. Little piece of ground
Macmillan Children's, 2018.
Trapped in their Ramallah home by a strict curfew, 12 year old Karim longs to play football with his mates. He and his friend discover an unused patch of ground that's the perfect site for a football pitch but he has broken the curfew and is in danger.

Lehr, Dick. Trell
Trell’s persistence and belief that her father should not have been imprisoned for murder, sees a journalist redeem himself, taking on her father's case and overcoming major personal hurdles himself.

Shaw, Fiona. Outwalkers
Jake, a 12 year old boy, is on the run from the authorities. Set in a dystopian England, where everyone is microchipped and there is a threat of catching a killer virus, Jake sets out to find his dog Jet and a home. Then he encounters the Outwalkers, a gang of young people who are also on the run from the government system, and together they go on a massive adventure, travelling from one end of England to another in their quest to get to Scotland and freedom.

Thomas, Angie. On the come up
Br's natural talent and determination to be a great rapper seem to be leading her to success, but hand in hand with that comes controversy and danger. The perils of social media have also to be navigated.

Wakefield, Vikki. This is how we change the ending
16 year old Nate McKee who is doing his best to stay a good person in terrible circumstances. His only refuge from a violent father is hanging out at the local youth centre, and when its closure is threatened, doesn't know what he will do without this one safe place outside of school. Teacher's notes are available on the publisher's website.
Refugees

Picture books

Davies, Nicola. **Day war came**  
This heart breaking story symbolises the plight of refugees the world over, being rejected, or left in detention camps, allowed to live out their lives without hope. And with echoes of the ‘no room at the inn’ story, this is a book that will engender much discussion in the classroom. Teacher’s notes are available at the publisher’s website.

Dent, Nick. **Goat on a boat**  
In a heart-felt tribute to the skills migrants bring to a country, Dent parodies the oft heard phrase from the rams of this world, ‘stop the goats’, while giving the ram the voice of detention centres and fear of the unknown to bully people into seeing it his way. Teacher’s notes are available at the publisher’s website.

Fraillon, Zana. **Wisp: a story of hope**  
Idris is a young boy who has spent his entire life in such a camp, where hope has been eaten away by the years spent behind wire fences. Teacher’s notes are available.

Hosseini, Khaled. **Sea prayer**  
A father holds his son as they wait for a boat to arrive. He tells him about his childhood in Syria and the memories that he holds of his home.

Magerl, Caroline. **Maya and cat**  
Maya spies a lost cat on the roof, going to some lengths to help it back home, will speak volumes to children as they may look further at the plight of many lost people around the world, waiting for someone to care. Teacher’s notes are available at the publisher’s website.

Milner, Kate. **My name is not refugee**  
The Bucket List, 2017.  
A mother explains to a little boy what they can take with them on exciting but difficult journey, leaving their home and friends.

Philp, Nicola. **Grain of hope**  
Readers will instantly empathise with Hanan’s situation, being handed over the side of a ship, found by a Navy patrol boat and then relegated to a position behind bars, her misery plain for all to see.

Rawlins, Donna. **Waves**  
Each double page tells the tale of one child coming to Australia to live, representative of one of the waves of people making their way to our shores. Teacher’s notes are available.

Temple, Kate Temple, Jol. **Room on our rock**  
Scholastic, 2018.  
The selfish seals try to keep their land for themselves, even though there is plenty of room. But in reading backwards, a welcome is given to share their rock, to join them.

Vass, Coral. **Grandma’s treasured shoes**  
Grandma has lots of shoes but her favourites are her old shoes, worn and torn from a land far away. This is a story of people migrating, and leaving their own land for somewhere quite different, often because their country is not at peace. Teacher’s notes are available.
Well-being and life skills literature lists

Refugees

Primary

Aung Thin, Michelle. Hasina
When the men come at night, murder in their eyes, Hasina, her brother Araf and cousin Ghadiya escape into the Rakhine forest, returning to the village days later where they are confronted by a quiet ruin, houses burnt down, their families gone.

Bruton, Catherine. *No ballet shoes in Syria*
Aya is eleven years old refugee from Syria and her ballet teacher believes that she could win a prestigious scholarship. But things are tough as her father has been separated from the family and they have to fight to stay in Britain.

Colfer, Eoin. *Illegal*
This graphic novel illustrated in colour, clearly shows the journey of survival of Ebo, a school-aged child with a beautiful voice, who leaves his home village where he lives with his drunken uncle, to find his siblings - one of whom has made the long journey to Europe.

Ellis, Deborah. *Parvana: a graphic novel*
When Parvana’s father is taken to prison, the family loses all contact with the outside world. As women are not allowed in the street alone, Parvana dresses as a boy to earn money to support her family. Teacher’s notes are available at the publisher’s website.

Hiranandani, Veera. *Night diary*
Dial Books for Young Readers, 2018.
Twelve-year-old Nisha, forced to flee her home with her Hindu family during the 1947 partition of India, writes to her deceased Muslim mother in her diary.

Laird, Elizabeth. *Welcome to nowhere*
Macmillan Children's, 2017.
Omar and his family have no choice but to flee their home in Syria with only what they can carry.

MacDibble, Bren. *Dog runner*
In a bleak future where the earth has run out of food and people are starving, Emery and his little sister, Ella, hook their five dogs to a home-made cart, like a sled on wheels, and set off for his mother's place where they expect to be safe. Teacher’s notes are available at the publisher’s website.

Morpurgo, Michael. *Boy giant: son of Gulliver*
When Omar and his mother flee for their lives after their village has been bombed and Omar's father killed, they tramp over vast regions until they get to the sea, suffering privation, hunger and thirst.

Rauf, Onjali Q. *The boy at the back of the class*
Orion, 2018.
Ahmet is a refugee child from war-torn Syria, and in his long trek across sea and land to find safety he has lost all family. Teacher’s notes are available from the publisher’s website.
Well-being and life skills literature lists

Refugees

Secondary

Atkins, Clare. Between us
Ana is an Iranian asylum-seeker brought from Nauru with her mother and 3 year old brother Arash to temporary detention in Darwin, because her mother is expecting a baby and is suffering from pre-eclampsia. Ana is haunted by the memories of something that happened to her in Iran, but coming to Darwin means that at last she can go to school. Teacher’s notes are available on the publisher’s website.

Bancks, Tristan. Detention
A young refugee girl on the run from detention crosses paths with a boy trying to rescue a brutalised dog. Teacher’s notes are available on the publisher’s website.

Betts, A.J. Rogue
Pan Macmillan Australia, 2019.
A sequel to the award winning Hive (2017), Rogue takes up the story as Hayley finds refuge on Maria Island. She is warned that they must not let refugees come ashore. Teacher’s notes are available on the author’s website.

Brown, Don. Unwanted: stories of the Syrian refugees
This graphic novel tells the stories of Syrian refugees streaming out of Syrian to neighbouring countries.

Durr, Morten. Zenobia
University of Queensland Press, 2018.
Thrown from the boat full of refugees, Amina remembers life and games with her mother and the journey she has had to take with her uncle to escape. Thoughts of the brave warrior Zenobia help her. Teacher’s notes are available at the publisher’s website.

Greder, Armin. Mediterranean
This is a strong and no holds barred look at the atrocities of warfare and refugees. Armin Greder’s illustrations show a colourless and bleak world where people’s lives are not valued and where human beings become food for the fishes. Teacher’s notes are available at the publisher’s website.

Lefteri, Christy. Beekeeper of Aleppo
Zaffre, 2019.
Lefteri tells the story of a Syrian couple, Nuri and Afra, traumatised by the destruction of their home and the death of their young son Sami, setting out on a path with other refugees to seek safety in another country offering some kind of hope of a normal life.

Yousafzai, Malala. We are displaced: my journey and stories from refugee girls around the world
Malala Yousafzai presents not only a short version of her own story in this new publication, but has gathered together the stories of many brave refugee girls she has met in the years following the attack on her by the Taliban.
Well-being and life skills literature lists

Resilience

Picture books

Carnavas, Peter. **Jessica’s box**
Jessica is worried about how to make friends when she begins school, so each day she takes a box with something in it to show the class.

Lowe, Pat. Pike, Jimmy. **Yinti’s desert dog**
When the dingo, Spinifex, is taken from her mother, she expects to be killed. Instead she is adopted and becomes a prized hunting dog. The incredible capacity of the indigenous community in surviving in inhospitable terrain is also evident, as is their resilience and capacity for change.

Reeder, Stephanie Owen. **Lennie the legend: solo to Sydney by pony**
Lennie Gwyther rode his pony Ginger Mick from the family farm in Victoria to Sydney to attend the opening ceremony of the Sydney Harbour Bridge in 1932. His journey helped to lift the spirits of Australians during the Great Depression.

Viorst, Judith. **Alexander and the terrible, horrible, no good, very bad day**
Alexander knew it was going to be a terrible day when he woke up with gum in his hair. And it got worse.

Whiting, Sue. **Beware the deep, dark forest**
A wonderful tale of bravery and resilience is told in this attractive book, redolent of folk tales of the past. With nods to Red Riding Hood, amongst others, Rosie dives into the deep dark forest, despite all the stories she has heard, to find her little dog, Tinky. Teacher’s notes are available on the publisher’s website.

Primary

Bauer, Michael Gerard. **Just a dog**
Omnibus, 2010.
Mr Mosely is the loyal dog that Corey and his family love. When the family goes through troubles, it is Mr Mosely who helps to keep them together. Teacher’s notes are available on the publisher’s website.

Bradley, Kimberly Brubaker. **The war that saved my life**
Text, 2016.
The war that saved my life is a moving and uplifting story of Ada, a young girl with an un- repaired clubfoot, who overcomes incredible odds, in her fight to save her life. Teacher’s notes are available on the publisher’s website. **War I finally won** (2017) is the sequel.

Burgis, Stephanie. **The dragon with a chocolate heart**
*The dragon with a chocolate heart* explores the themes of acceptance, courage, resilience and making the right choices, a wonderful story for fantasy fans and just right for Middle Primary students.
Well-being and life skills literature lists

Resilience

Gaiman, Neil. **Odd and the frost giants**
Odd is a most engaging young man whose courage in the face of danger and disability is as strong as his resilience and kind heart.

Janu, Tamsin. **Figgy in the world**
When Figgy’s grandmother becomes ill, she decides she will go to America and find the medicine that she needs. Without further ado, she sets out. She has no idea of life beyond her small village where her grandmother looks after her, after being abandoned by her mother. She has a simple plan and putting one foot after the other, finds enough friends along the way to help her and keep her courage high.

Jennings, Paul. **A different land**
Christopher, his mother and Anton have travelled 12,000 miles to Australia and then made a long train journey in hope of employment. When the trio arrive though, they find that the pub is very run down and they have to live in a caravan smelling of dead pig. Teacher’s notes are available on the publisher’s website.

Lacy, Tania. **Tracy Lacy is completely coo-coo bananas**
Scholastic Australia, 2016.
With a distinctive voice, unique personality, loyal friends and a crazy family Tracy is ready to leave behind the embarrassing socially catastrophic events of primary school, survive the school holidays and begin high school as a changed person.

O’Loghlin, James. **Twins of Tintarfell**
Pan Macmillan Australia, 2016.
With powerful themes of love, sacrifice, friendship, resilience, acceptance and courage interwoven, this fantasy challenges the reader to consider their own beliefs. Recommended as a class novel.

Purkiss, Sue. **Jack Fortune and the search for the Hidden Valley**
A young orphan boy travels with his Uncle Edmund to the Himalayas in a difficult and dangerous quest collecting rare plants and seeds.

Scott, Kate. **The extraordinary life of Stephen Hawking**
This biography of Stephen Hawking introduces this amazing man of Science to youthful readers. Explanations of his journey as a scientist and cosmologist, and his resilience while coping with the difficulties of his diagnosis and life with MND, are described.

Wheeler, Samantha. **Wombat warriors**
UQP, 2017.
Anxieties about staying with her aunt are set aside when Mouse discovers that Aunt Evie shares her house with a rather affectionate wombat and a curious duck. A new friend and a school project gives her a reason to explore ways that wombats can co-exist with their human neighbours and creates the ‘Wombat Warriors’. Teacher’s notes are available.

Wolk, Lauren. **Beyond the bright sea**
Twelve-year-old Crow was found drifting in a small boat when she was just a few hours old. Rescued by Osh, a lonely man, she has been brought up by him and Miss Maggie, a neighbour across the sandbar. She is a curious person and when she sees a fire on the island across the water, she begins to piece together her own history.
Well-being and life skills literature lists

Resilience

Secondary

Abdel-Magied, Yassmin. You must be Layla
Layla's dreams of being an adventurer and amazing inventor, look doomed from the start. But she is not a person to give up at the first set-back. She knows that she can come up with a brilliant idea that will win the Grand Designs Tourismo competition and re-affirm her scholarship status. Teacher's notes are available at the publisher's website.

Badoe, Adwoa. Jigsaw of fire and stars
As a baby Sante Williams was tucked in a treasure-filled sea chest and thrown overboard from a sinking African refugee boat. She was rescued by a ragtag bunch of adults who live on the edge of society performing as Mama Rose's circus troupe and with her friends has to be resilient to survive.

Betts, A.J. Zac and Mia
Text, 2013.
Zac taps on the wall of the hospital room next to him and an unexpected friendship begins with Mia the girl next door. Teacher's notes are available at the publisher's website.

Dessen, Sarah. Saint anything
Sydney has always felt second best in her family, her brother Peyton always the star. But Peyton has become increasingly reckless and finally after badly injuring a teen in a drink driving accident, is sent to prison.

Ellis, Deborah. Parvana: a graphic novel
Parvana dresses as a boy to make money in the market place for her family, now bereft of any male relative who can help them. Teacher’s notes are available on the publisher’s website.

Ferris, Fleur. Black
Ebony Marshall, known as Black, is desperate to leave Dainsfield, the small country town where she is in her final year of high school. Rumours that she is cursed have followed her since three of her best friends have died in accidents and now she finds it easy to be alone. But when her date for the formal ends up in intensive care, the whispers stir again.

Griffin, Paul. When friendship followed me home
Text, 2016.
Ben Coffin is a 12 year old who is in foster care. All seems fine, he has adopted a scruffy little dog, called Flip and enjoys reading sci-fi at the library. When Ben meets Halley, the librarian's daughter, he believes he has a friend, but his foster mother Tess, dies and Ben finds himself once again trying to cope. Teacher’s notes are available at the publisher’s website.

Medina, Meg. Burn, baby burn
17 year old Nora Lopez lives in New York during the terrible year of 1977. The heat is scorching and there is a killer on the loose. But that's not all Nora has to face - her family is spiralling out of control, with her mother having difficulty paying the rent and brother Hector becoming uncontrollable and befriending drug dealers.

Moffat, Catherine. Hope: an anthology
Ten short stories reflect the tenacity and optimism that people show in the face of poverty and testing times.
Well-being and life skills literature lists

Resilience

Pitt, Turia. *Unmasked*
Turia Pitt tells her inspirational story for young adults. Her account of surviving horrific burns and learning to live life with gratitude despite the horrors of her experience will be inspiring and challenging for young readers.

Selzer, Anita. *I am Sasha*
Born in Poland before the Second World War, Sasha lived on his own with his mother after his father's early death. This sadness was not the only difficulty that he would face. The advent of the Second World War added another level of challenge to their lives as Jewish citizens.
Teacher's notes are available on the publisher's website.

Stelson, Caren. *Sachiko: a Nagasaki bomb survivor's story*
Sachiko is one of the few who survived the nuclear holocaust that resulted when the nuclear bomb was dropped on Nagasaki.

Stewart, Erin. *Scars like wings*
Ava is slowly recovering from a house fire that killed her parents and her cousin Sara; she is the sole survivor, but survivor is hardly a word she likes because she has burns to 60 percent of her body and a face that is changed forever.

Sutherland, Krystal. *Semi-definitive list of worst nightmares*
Esther Solar has a dysfunctional family life. Her twin brother is severely challenged by the dark, her mother is afraid of bad luck and her father has not left the basement for years but Esther manages to keep going. Teacher's notes are available on the publisher's website.

Wakefield, Vikki. *Ballad for a mad girl*
Text, 2017.
As part of the long-running feud between two local schools in Swanston, Grace accepts a challenge to walk the pipe. That night she experiences something she can't explain. The funny girl isn't laughing anymore. She's haunted by voices and visions - but nobody believes a girl who cries wolf. Teacher's notes are available at the publisher's website.
Well-being and life skills literature lists

Self-esteem

Anderson, Laura Ellen. I don't want to be small
Bloomsbury, 2019.
The little boy hates being small. But when he loses his teddy bear up a tree, even a taller girl cannot reach it but together they come up with an idea to rescue it.

Andreae, Giles. Giraffes can't dance
Gerard the giraffe really wants to dance but his long neck and skinny legs make it hard and the other jungle animals laugh at his attempts. Despondent, he leaves the gathering but a wise cricket tells him "...sometimes when you're different/You just need a different song.'

Bancroft, Jack Manning. The eagle inside
Illus. by Bronwyn Bancroft. Little Hare Books, 2015.
The little honeyeater enters a school contest with the encouragement of the Eagle who sees his inner strength despite the disparaging comments from other birds.

Brown, Karamo. I am perfectly designed
This book celebrates diversity and empowers children as it relates the story of a boy and his father walking and talking through their day. Based on the interaction between Karamo and his son, Jason, the book brims with understanding and love.

Byers, Grace. I am enough
Balzer + Bray, 2018.
A story of loving who you are, respecting others and being kind to one another.

Canby, Kelly. Rodney
Rodney dreams of living amongst the tree tops, and the animals tell him how wonderful it will be. But life on the ground is just as wonderful. Teacher's notes are available.

Cosgrove, Matt. Macca's makeover
Macca the Alpaca wishes he could be as cool as his friends. He tries to work out their secrets and tries a few things - a new hairdo, some cool accessories or maybe a gym body? Nothing seems to suit Macca and his friends step in to assure him he is cool just being himself.

Gervay, Susanne. Boy in the big blue glasses
Sammy feels that no-one else can see past his new glasses to see him, the same boy, not different at all. He tries to lose his glasses but they keep being found. Will he ever fit in again?

Jolly, Jane. Man with small hair
Illus. by Andrew Joyner. Little Hare, 2018.
The man with small hair loves his small hair. He also loves his short pants, zing-a-ding boots and clickety-clackety beads. He is happy with the way he is.

McInerny, Amelia. Book chook
When Ray finds out that he is a book chook, a two dimensional drawing that has a place only on a page, he is appalled and tries to escape to become a real chook, only to find that life as a chicken is not that great.

Morgan, Sally. I love me
This book is about loving yourself for being you. It shows children that we should all love ourselves just the way we are. Teacher's notes are available from the publisher's website.
Well-being and life skills literature lists

Self-esteem

Rance, Alex. Tiger's roar
A young tiger is totally devastated as he has lost his roar. He is encouraged by his jungle
animal friends to not give up. Teacher’s notes are available from the publisher. Rabbit's hop
is another book by this author.

Watts, Frances. Leonard doesn’t dance
Leonard likes to try anything, so when he sees an invitation to come dancing at the big beaky
bird ball he approaches some of his bird friends to see if he can learn to dance. He tries many
different dances until the Ants in His Pants dance is just right.

Primary

Cahill, Tim. Next level
Over the weekend of the state competition, Timmy learns some valuable lessons on and off
the field: he realises the need to stand up for himself, not to give in to peer pressure and
believe in himself.

Craft, Jerry. New kid
Jordan Banks loves to draw and wants to go to art school, but his parents send him to an
academic school, where he is one of the few kids of colour in his class.

DiCamillo, Kate. Beverly, right here
When Beverly, aged fourteen, leaves home, catching a lift with a neighbour after the burial of
her beloved dog, Buddy, she has little idea of what she will do, but she meets people who help
her out. Teacher notes are available on the publisher’s website.

Estela, Lucy. Girl on wire
A young girl walks across the tightrope, afraid she will fall, but with the support of others she is
successful.

Kelly, Erin Entrada. Hello, Universe
Winner of the Newberry Medal 2018, this is a story of four children who feel like misfits at
school and at home. Yet each one of them finds strength in friendship and support from a
caring adult. Teacher’s notes are available from the publisher’s website.

Nyong'o, Lupita. Sulwe
Sulwe compares herself to her fairer skinned and popular sister and attempts to lighten her
skin but to no avail. Her mother supports her with love and understanding and explains that
her name means star which shows brightness.

Shanahan, Lisa. Grand, genius summer of Henry Hoobler
Henry Hoobler is a boy with worries. He is travelling with his family on a camping holiday but
would rather stay at home with Nonna and not have to think about all the things that could go
wrong or have to face the challenge of learning to ride the ominous new bike that is coming
along on the holiday too. Teacher’s notes are available from the publisher’s website.
Well-being and life skills literature lists

Self-esteem

Secondary

Alexander, Kwame. Booked
When twelve-year-old Nick can’t play soccer, he learns the power of words from his stern father as he stands up to a bully, and tries to impress the girl of his dreams.

Anderson, M. T. Burger wuss
Hoping to lose his loser image, Anthony plans revenge on a bully which results in a war between two competing fast food restaurants, Burger Queen and O’Dermott's.

Sheppard, Holden. Invisible boys
Charlie, Zeke and Hammer each struggle to come to grips with their homosexuality in a small, conservative town. Teacher’s notes are available from the publisher’s website.

Scott, Victoria. Hear the wolves
A blizzard has blown unexpectedly into a small Alaskan town, the wolves are a constant threat in the background, and Sloan must find her courage if she is to get herself and the few remaining citizens to safety beyond the forest.

Smale, Holly. Forever geek
There is a lot of good advice about fitting in, being yourself and having friends that the reader will appreciate as Harriet comes to grips with who she is and what she wants out of life.

Stewart, Erin. Scars like wings
Ava is slowly recovering from a house fire that killed her parents and her cousin Sara; she is the sole survivor, but survivor is hardly a word she likes because she has burns to 60 percent of her body and a face that is changed forever.

Tan, Shaun. Cicada
Lothian, 2018.
After seventeen years of drudgery and of not being appreciated, Cicada breaks out, paralleling the fact that cicadas can live underground for up to seventeen years before emerging. Teacher’s notes are available from the publisher’s website.

Williams, Sean. Impossible music
Simon is a young musician with his own band. He loves creating music, it means everything to him. He wants to go on to study music at university. And then one night he is struck deaf, by a stroke that destroys the part of the brain that hears. Teacher’s notes are available from the publisher’s website.

Worsley, Lucy. My name is Victoria
Miss V. Conroy is a very good girl. She is quiet, well-mannered and wants to obey her father Sir John Conroy, the comptroller of the household of the widowed Duchess of Kent. When her father takes her to Kensington Palace to be the companion to the young Princess Victoria, she finds that she is expected to spy on her and report back to her father.
Well-being and life skills literature lists

Tolerance

Picture books

Foti, Rina A. Atze, Dave. Cat spies mouse
Mouse, although small, is a game-changer who asks big questions. She is able to change dog and cat's thinking about what is normal through asking questions. This book fosters discussions about tolerance, acceptance and respect.

Kerr, Anne Maxine. Sorry sorry
This is an introduction to understanding the journey of reconciliation with Australia's First Peoples.

Muhammad, Ibtihaj. Ali, S.K. The proudest blue
From Olympic medallist Ibtihaj Muhammad comes the story of Asiya's hijab. Faizah, her sister, faces some nasty comments about the hijab, but the two remain proud of who they are.

Palacio, R.J. We're all wonders
We're all wonders with its simple, bold statements and colourful, graphic illustrations introduces Auggie and his dog Daisy to younger readers. Palacio's desire is to help children understand the need for tolerance, acceptance and kindness.

Stewart, Paul. Brian the brave
Brian wants all the sheep to be friends, but Stanley will play only with sheep with black wool, while some of the others like sheep with horns. Each time someone is left out of the games until Brian bumps into a wolf and he gets the sheep to act together in the face of danger.

Walliams, David. Boogie Bear
The ice on her iceberg melts and the polar bear drifts towards a warmer climate. Spying an island nearby she paddles towards it only to be confronted by many pairs of eyes belonging to a pack of brown bears, who are not altogether happy with this interloper.

Walton, Jessica. Introducing teddy: a story about being yourself
When Thomas the teddy is feeling low, his friend Errol asks him what the matter is. He reveals that he has never felt like a boy inside but feels like a girl. He would prefer his name to be Tilly. An activity pack is available from the publisher.

Primary

Applegate, Katherine. Wishtree
Feiwel and Friends, 2019.
Red is a very old oak tree and when a threat against an immigrant family is carved into his trunk, gets together with Bongo his crow friend to help the neighbours get along.

MacPhail, Catherine. Under the skin
Barrington Stoke, 2019.
Omar's family had to flee their own country and come to the UK believing that it will be a safe place. Then Omar has to confront Sam, the school bully.

Murray, Martine. Marsh and me
Text, 2017.
Joey is a shy boy who is determined to find out about Marsh, a young girl from Serbia who has built a tree house on his hill. Teacher's notes are available on the publisher's website.
Well-being and life skills literature lists

Tolerance

Secondary

Adeyemi, Tomi. *Children of blood and bone*  
Magic has been banned by the monarchy and Zelie has one chance to bring it back. With the help of a rogue princess, Zelie, whose white hair shows she has magic, she must outwit and outrun the crown prince, who is determined to eradicate magic for good. *Children of virtue and vengeance* (2019) follows.

Ellis, Deborah. *Cat at the wall*  
When Clare dies in her home town of Bethlehem in Pennsylvania, she is reincarnated as a cat in Bethlehem, the West Bank and takes refuge in a Palestinian house which two Israeli soldiers are using as an observation post. The cat realises that a little boy is hiding beneath the floorboards. Should she help him?

Federle, Tim. *Better Nate than ever*  
Walker, 2015.  
The reader can't help smiling and laughing and completely relating to the main character, Nate, as he bravely negotiates New York City and the cut throat world of Broadway auditions, ably supported by Libby, Freckles and Heidi.

Kwaymullina, Ambelin. *The Interrogation of Ashala Wolf*  
Ashala is being taken to a machine to begin an interrogation because she has a supernatural power, an ability which is feared by the authorities. She is afraid that she will betray her tribe. This is followed by *The disappearance of Ember Crow* (2013) and *The foretelling of Georgie Spider* (2014). Teacher's notes are available from the publisher.

Medina, Meg. *Yaqui Delgado wants to kick your ass*  
Candlewick, 2015.  
One morning before school, some girl tells Piddy Sanchez that Yaqui Delgado hates her and wants to kick her ass. Piddy doesn't even know who Yaqui is, never mind what she's done to piss her off. But as the harassment escalates, avoiding Yaqui and her gang starts to take over Piddy's life.

Menon, Sandhya. *When Dimple met Rishi*  
Hodder, 2017.  
Dimple Shah and Rishi Patel have both won positions at their choice of university. Behind the scenes their parents have been matchmaking so when Dimple asks if she can go to an expensive summer school they say yes, secretly knowing that Rishi Patel will enrol.

Rowell, Rainbow. *Eleanor & Park*  
Orion, 2014.  
Like Romeo and Juliet, Eleanor and Park are from different worlds, even though they are both sixteen and go to the same school on the same bus in a mid- western USA city in the 80s.

Sloan, Holly Goldberg. *Counting by 7s*  
Dial Books for Young Readers, 2013.  
When Willow Chance’s parents are killed in a car accident, she has to find a surrogate family. She manages to find one that is truly multicultural.

Yoon, Nicola. *The sun is also a star*  
This is a love story about Natasha, a Jamaican girl who believes in science and Daniel a South Korean student who believes in fate and love at first sight.