

Sydney's Top Selling Children Books 2024

by Tayla Foster

It's hard looking for quality children's books for our kids. We want something that will both entertain, persuade and inform their thinking, especially in the early years of childhood. Here are the top 3 children's books to leave a lasting impression on your child.

POSSUM MAGIC BY MEM FOX

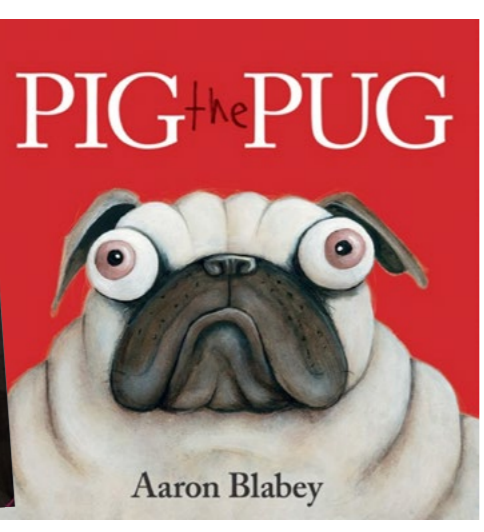
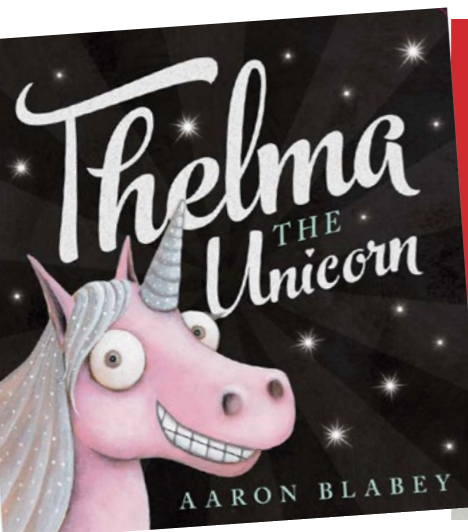
A crowd favourite in Pre-schools and Primary Schools across Sydney, *Possum Magic* has reigned supreme in the world of children's books for over a decade. It is still one of the top 5 selling children's classics all over Australia. With characters such as little Hush and Grandma Poss, *Possum Magic* captivates children and adults alike.

PIG THE PUG BY AARON BLABEY

Pig, the very grumpy and grouchy pug, is a people pleaser amongst children and their parents. Teaching children about kindness, respect and patience, Pug sets a very grotesque example of how NOT to behave in public. *Pig the Pug* can be located in libraries, books stores and Primary schools all over Sydney, and is the perfect picture book for your child.

THELMA THE UNICORN BY AARON BLABEY

Thelma the Unicorn tells the tale of inner beauty. Of being comfortable in one's own skin and celebrating who you are, with all features included. Whilst it's okay to want to do things for yourself, owning who you were born to be starts with loving how you were made. *Thelma the Unicorn* can be found in bookstores, libraries, and schools across the country.



Event Inspires a New Generation of Female Changemakers

In celebration of International Women's Day, Loreto Normanhurst's 'Women of Influence' evening showcased the inspirational journeys of three distinguished alumnae. Coinciding with International Women's Day each year, the enduring event saw three inspirational female alumnae, excelling in their personal and professional lives, take centre stage to empower the Loreto Normanhurst community and a new generation of female leaders.



'Women of Influence' has been a celebrated event on the school calendar since 2011. During the event, the public had the unique opportunity to hear firsthand about the challenges, triumphs, and insights of females succeeding in male-dominated industries and making an impactful change in today's world through the lens of three alumnae: Mariell Taylor (1991), Sarah Ball (1995) and Barbara Stephen (2001).

Mariell Taylor (1991), Operations Project Manager at NSW Rural Fire Service, leverages over 25 years of dedication and expertise. With roots as a volunteer, Mariell's academic achievements and commitment to STEM drive her career. Her daughters' enrollment at Loreto Normanhurst reflects her enduring connection to her alma mater.

Sarah Ball (1995), shaped by Loreto Normanhurst's values, excels in the agricultural sector, advocating for industry

growth and farmer welfare. As a respected figure, she advises on key panels like the Grains Research and Development Corporation Northern Panel.

Barbara, CEO of Flying Bark Productions since 2014, leads a team of 500+ in creating acclaimed family films. From classics like *Blinky Bill: The Movie* to modern hits like *100% Wolf*, Barbara's vision has propelled Flying Bark Productions to international success.

For current Loreto Normanhurst students, this positive exposure

helps to expand the breadth of their understanding their opportunities, and how a Loreto Normanhurst education can ignite their futures.

"Loreto Normanhurst is committed to creating an aspirational environment and encouraging our students to understand and explore the limitless possibilities that await them beyond the school gates. Our event is an extension of this and an opportunity for girls to consider the impact their education and influence could have in the future," said Loreto Normanhurst Principal, Ms Marina Ugonotti.

Closing the Gap education targets

Recently, the Australian Government handed down an update on the Closing the Gap report, which is designed to ensure a better quality of life for Indigenous Australians.

There are 19 socio-economic outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people as listed in that report. Some of these are education-related.

Among kids, there has been a decrease in the proportion of Indigenous children assessed as being developmentally on track in all five domains of the Australian Early Development Census.

When it comes to the NSW Government specifically, we've seen the creation of 37 Aboriginal Learning and Engagement Centres across state public schools.

It aims to foster economic and educational opportunities for Indigenous kids, the response so far being very positive.

As for whether or not it will help close the gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Aussies - time will hopefully tell.



Closing the Gap report listed 19 socio-economic outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

Ravenswood Australian Women's Art Prize

The 2024 Ravenswood Australian Women's Art Prize, Australia's most prestigious women's art award, has unveiled its 117 finalists from a pool of 1616 submissions. These include 62 professional artists, 47 emerging artists, and 8 Indigenous emerging artists, emphasising the prize's commitment to diverse representation. Since its inception in 2017, the prize has attracted over 11,100 entries, underscoring its pivotal role in amplifying the voices of women artists nationwide.

According to Mrs. Anne Johnstone, Founder of the Ravenswood Australian Women's Art Prize, the award remains the nation's most esteemed accolade for women artists, fostering creativity and providing invaluable opportunities for



artistic expression. The judges observed a trend towards exploring materiality and multimedia layering in this year's submissions, with a notable presence of innovative 3D artworks alongside abstract pieces. The upcoming exhibition promises to be a vibrant showcase of diverse, aesthetically captivating works, reflecting

the talent and creativity of women artists from across Australia.

The prize aims to promote and support emerging and established women artists in Australia. With prizes totalling \$45,000 across three categories - Professional Artist, Emerging Artist, and Indigenous Emerging Artist - the prize serves as a catalyst for artistic excellence and opportunity. The eagerly anticipated exhibition, running from 11 May to 26 May, will provide a platform for finalists to showcase their exceptional talents, while the People's Choice Award and a Derivan prize pack further enrich the celebration of female artistic achievement.

For more information visit ravenswoodartprize.com.au.